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POLL RESULTS

Do you support the creation of a public transportation system in the CNMI?:

Yes	160
No	21
Maybe	5
Unsure	2
No opinion	2

Sunday, February 2, 2014

INSIDE

LOCAL



Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is "AlumKnight of the Year."

➤ PAGE 14

BUSINESS



Advertisers are planning to pull out the tools in their arsenal during Super Bowl.

➤ PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE



Miley Cyrus wants you to concentrate on her voice—not her twerking.

➤ PAGE 21

Resolution urges governor to fire Fletcher as CUC chief. PAGE 2
Ada takes the helm of MPLT board. PAGE 5

Govt OKs new life insurance coverage for Fund members

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The CNMI government has inked a new contract for the life insurance coverage of NMI Retirement Fund members, selecting Individual Assurance Co. anew as the policy provider for the next 12-month period.

Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan notified members on Friday of the government's decision to continue to tap the services of IAC to provide members' life insurance coverage in 2014.

The government issued a request for proposal for the life insurance program last year prior to the expiration of the IAC contract on Dec. 31.

Pangelinan disclosed that the new life insurance policy will have the following changes beginning Feb. 1, 2014:

For government employees, payment

See INSURANCE on Page 4

CHOMPING CHI

The two lions of the Chinese Association of Saipan's lion dance are just about ready to "chomp" on the Chinese cabbage hanging at the door of Louis Vuitton shop at the DFS Galleria Saipan Friday afternoon. Cabbage and money have the same sound in Chinese, which is chi. Saipan joined China and other countries with sizeable Chinese populations in celebrating the Lunar New Year last Jan. 31.

MARK RABAGO

Fletcher justifies CUC management decisions

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

First of a two-part story

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Alan Fletcher spoke up Friday to justify the agency's decisions on several matters, which he claimed were made to ultimately stabilize utilities services to customers.

Faced by a barrage of criticisms during a recent public hearing about some of CUC's management decisions, Fletcher

set the record straight on the relocation made for some employees, the alleged purchase of inefficient vehicles, the continuous hiring of workers, project management, and the early termination of the PMIC contract. The comments earlier made by some lawmakers on these issues, he said, should not overshadow the demonstrated achievements of CUC since the utility agency's near collapse in 2008.

"CUC management is approved by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and has the skills and expertise to imple-

See FLETCHER on Page 4

5 establishments in San Jose burglarized



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The glass door of Saint Trading Co. Inc. in San Jose is shattered by burglars.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five establishments at the two-story Sablan Building in San Jose were burglarized over the weekend.

The burglars were able to run off with over \$600 in bills and coins from four of the five establishments, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

At least one suspect is believed to have been injured as bloodstains were found in the some of the establishments.

Burglarized were Saint Trading Co. Inc., Rosal/Zest Enterprises, Modern Hair Salon and Barber

See BURGLARIZED on Page 4

CNMI GOVT AGREES TO PAY ATTORNEY'S FEES, COSTS Jorgensen, \$800K; Woodruff, \$185K

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government has agreed to pay Betty Johnson's original counsel, Bruce Jorgensen, \$800,000 in attorney's fees and costs, and Johnson's local counsel, Stephen C. Woodruff, \$185,000. The payment is subject to federal court's approval.

Assistant attorney general Reena J. Patel, on behalf of the CNMI government, and attorneys Jorgensen and Woodruff

filed in federal court on Friday separate motions for approval of attorneys' fees.

Patel and the lawyers stated that the agreement is a fair and proper settlement of Jorgensen's and Woodruff's fees.

They said the compromise was a result of extensive, good faith arm's length negotiations initiated by the court, with the help of Hawaii chief bankruptcy judge Robert Faris, after the court approved the settlement of Johnson's class action.

See JORGENSEN on Page 4

Local

Resolution urges governor to fire Fletcher as CUC chief

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) pre-filed on Friday a resolution requesting Gov. Eloy S. Inos to relieve Alan Fletcher from his duties as Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director, citing his "poor record of performance." Inos was expected to return over the weekend from Hawaii where he met with the U.S. Pacific Command.

"Based on Fletcher's record of performance and based on further review, it is quite clear that Fletcher is not able to carry out the duties and responsibilities to manage the administration and operation of CUC in a satisfactory manner," the resolution reads.

Dela Cruz, vice chairman of the House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee, said that CUC has repeatedly requested and received utility rate increases that have resulted in "CUC being enriched to the point where CUC is benefiting to the detriment of the CNMI's suffering people."

The resolution's pre-filing comes days after the Common-

wealth Public Utilities Commission initially agreed to CUC's proposed increase in electric base rates.

This means CUC, upon the effective date of CPUC's order, will be authorized to increase its electric base rates to produce \$2.8 million on an annualized basis. This increase would be accomplished with the creation of a \$0.21 per kWh "infrastructure surcharge" that the commission also approved for implementation.

In his resolution, Dela Cruz said CUC makes continuous petitions to CPUC to raise rates without plans of cost reductions within CUC.

He added that the corporation "has made it a habit to operate without transparency" and has failed to cut its rates to the Department of Public Works to reflect savings realized pursuant to switching to liquid emitting diodes or LED street lights funded through ARRA.

The lawmaker also said CUC has added a fleet of non-efficient vehicles that consume high amounts of fuel.

He added that CUC recently expanded its office space for executives after renting a new office space for a power distribution crew at another location.

"CUC has been outfitting executive offices with lavish furnishings at a time when the regular customers find it very hard to even pay their utility

bills," the resolution reads. Dela Cruz, in his resolution co-sponsored by other members, cited what he described as a "classic example of the practice of nepotism within the corporation," referring to another CUC executive.

The vice speaker added that CUC has failed to terminate an employee who was convicted and found guilty of theft of ser-

vice and that the same employee is still under CUC payroll.

Dela Cruz also said Fletcher favored change order No. 5 that served to extend up to 15 years

See **RESOLUTION** on Page 4



TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Thomas Manglona II of Mount Carmel School, front right, shares how he witnessed a dating violence incident on Saipan as acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider, front seated left, listen during a signing of a proclamation Friday morning declaring February 2014 Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, as well as Parent Leadership Month.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES RFQ14-GOV-028



Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting statements of qualification (SOQ) from licensed architectural and engineering firms (A&E) for the Design of the Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement Project, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The full Request for Qualifications (RFQ) documents may be obtained by contacting Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, by telephone at (670) 664-2274 or by email at psas@saipan.com. All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:00 pm, January 17, 2014 to Mr. Sasamoto by facsimile at (670) 664-2279.

The design and construction of the Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement Project is made possible by a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce. All element of the construction process shall meet standards of EDA. The EDA grant is matched by a grant from the Office of the Insular Affairs (OIA), U.S. Department of the Interior and requires a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance.

One original and four (4) copies shall be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 PM, (CNMI local time), on February 5, 2014.**

The SOQ shall be marked "**Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement Project, RFQ14-GOV-028**". For firms within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February 5, 2014.** Firms located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on February 5, 2014**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or email procurement@pticom.com. For firms located outside the CNMI, one original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 5, 2014** AND must be received no later than **February 14, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all SOQ and to waive any imperfections in any SOQ if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All SOQ shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos
Governor, CNMI

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Statewide Independent Living Council

"Yes I Can!"

P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950; TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2014 First General Membership Meeting on Thursday, February 06, 2014 at the Napu Room, Pacific Islands Club from 8:30 - 11:30 am.

Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes of FY 2013 Fourth SILC General Membership Meeting Minutes of September 30, 2013
- V. Reports
 - a. SILC Chairperson
 - b. CLI Executive Director
 - c. OVR Director
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Update on Review of SILC By-Laws
- VII. New Business
 - a. Introduction and Welcome of New SILC Members
 - b. Guest Speaker: Transportation
 - c. Trip Reports
 - i. SILC Vice Chairperson
 - ii. SILC Secretary
 - iii. OVR Administrative Assistant
 - d. Upcoming SILC Activities
 - e. CLI Request for Computers
- VIII. Consumer Forum
- IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
- X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters are asked to call Ms. Elvira Seman (OVR Administrative Assistant) at 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY) for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Consolacion Atalig
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by a grant from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

House paves way for payment of judgments without appropriations

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a lengthy discussion, the House of Representatives passed by an overwhelming vote of 19-1 late Friday afternoon a bill that would allow the government to satisfy judgments without an appropriation at a time when "outstanding and unpaid judgments and settlements" have reached more than \$27 million.

In short, the judgments shall be paid "from any available funds with or without appropriation" from the Legislature.

But House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), the only one who voted "no" to the bill, is concerned that this gives a "blank check" by allowing the court to enforce judgments without legislative appropriation so long as it does not exceed 15 percent of funds appropriated to the Executive Branch for a respective fiscal year.

If applied liberally, the bill "can hurt or jeopardize the delivery of essential public services," he said.

"It could be very subjective. At least with the prior process,

it was looked at on a case-by-case basis, and laws were made. This way, it kind of relieved the Legislature of that authority and say, 'you Executive Branch, it's really up to you where you get the money from, and if it could mean taking money from anywhere, PSS [Public School System] or medical referral or whatever, and we're saying okay to that,'" the speaker told *Saipan Tribune*.

Deleon Guerrero pointed out that he supports compensating landowners, for example, for lands taken by the government for public purpose, and has even introduced legislation to address the issue of land compensation.

"But we have to be mindful of how we do it. I think that's the part I don't agree with here, the 'how,'" he added.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) and vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) offered floor amendments to Tebuteb's House Bill 18-143 and both amendments were adopted.

House Bill 18-143, House Draft 1 passed at 4:38pm during a session that started at past 9am. The bill now goes to the Senate.

Dela Cruz's amendment adds a subsection that says, "Subject to a cap of 15 percent of the funds duly identified and appropriated to the Executive Branch for a respective fiscal year, all payments made to satisfy judgments under this provision shall be made in the order in which the judgments became due and payable as determined from the date of the 'final judgment.' If necessary, payments shall be made proportionately in accordance with funding availability. All payments shall be reported to the presiding officers of the Legislature on a quarterly basis each fiscal year."

This comes at a time when lawmakers have been pushing for a fair distribution or payment of land compensations when funding becomes available, to avoid previous practices of paying a few families from \$100,000 to \$4.4 million each while over 300 other landowners have yet to receive a penny in exchange for their private property used by the government for public access roads, wetlands, or ponding basin.

The Office of the Attorney General told the Legislature last year that the government's outstanding and unpaid judgments and settlements is now at more than \$27 million, excluding accruing interests.

Under current law, the government is restricted from mak-

ing settlement of claims and payment of judgments because a legislative appropriation is necessary for such payments.

Although the law allows the governor to waive the requirement of a legislative appropriation, the governor "does not appear to be willing to make such a waiver," Tebuteb said.

"Judgments sit for years without the governor making a waiver or requesting an appropriation. Since the government is shielded from the judicial enforcement of judgments, the government has become irresponsible and neglectful in addressing its obligations," he added.

At 4:41pm on Friday, the House also passed a Senate-amended House bill amending the Commonwealth Insurance Act of 1983 to provide for a pre-

mium rate review process. Rep. Edmund Villagomez's (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 18-159, Senate Draft 1 now goes to the governor for action.

Ex-cop gets 3 mos. prison term for using 'ice' again

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has revoked the supervised release of former police officer Florencio Q. Richards and sent him to three months in prison for using methamphetamine or "ice" again.

At a hearing on Thursday afternoon, Richards admitted to the allegations of violating the terms and conditions of his supervised release, including the use of "ice."

After serving his three-month sentence, Richards will be placed on 33 months of supervised release.

Richards was required, among other things, to perform 100 hours of community service and participate in a substance abuse treatment program under the direction of the U.S. Probation Office.

Manglona told Richards that she hopes to see him return as a productive member of the community.

"You should get busy doing positive things," the judge said.

During the probationary period, Richards is prohibited from using illegal drugs, consuming alcoholic beverages, and possessing firearms and dangerous weapons.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy agreed to the U.S. Probation's recommendation to impose three months in prison plus drug counseling and treatment.

Court-appointed defense counsel Michael Evangelista recommended drug counseling

and treatment.

Last Jan. 24, Richards surrendered to the U.S. Marshal Service after learning about an arrest warrant the federal court issued against him.

Manglona issued the arrest warrant on Jan. 23 after the U.S. Probation Office moved to revoke the supervised release of Richards for allegedly using "ice" again and committing other violations of the terms and conditions of his probation.

Richards has been on three years of supervised probation since Feb. 20, 2013, after serving a 12-month prison term for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine or "ice," distribution of "ice," and possession of a firearm by a prohibited person.

According to U.S. Probation Officer Margarita Wonenberg, the defendant used "ice" on Dec. 30, 2013, failed to report to a probation officer, failed to follow the instructions of the probation officer, and failed to participate in a substance abuse treatment program.

Wonenberg said Richards tested presumptive positive for "ice" during a random drug test on Dec. 31, 2013, and admitted to using the drug a day before when confronted with the results.

The probation officer noted that this was Richards' fourth positive drug test within a one-year period.

In August 2011, the federal court imposed a 24-month prison term on Richards for distributing "ice" while he was still an active officer.

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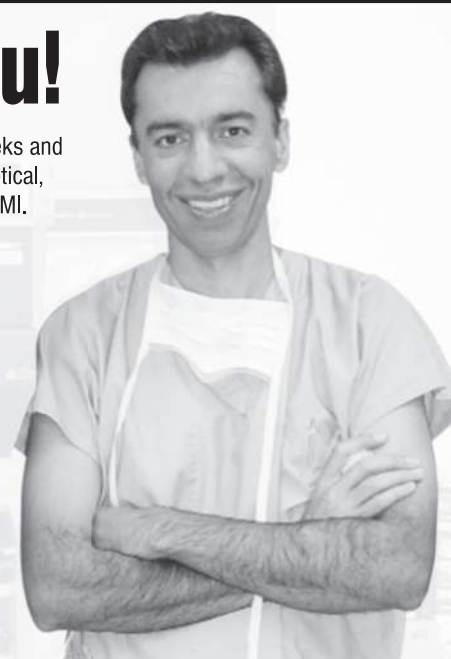
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FLETCHER

From Page 1

ment positive changes. It is true that CUC operates and is managed differently, now that a management team approved by the EPA is in place. The stipulated orders signed in federal court require that CUC managers have professional qualifications and go through a vetting process by EPA before they can be appointed to their positions. This includes the executive director, chief financial officer, deputy executive director for water and wastewater, division manager for water and wastewater, chief engineer, associate engineer, operations supervisor for wastewater treatment, and the technical manager for oil," explained Fletcher.

He pointed out that prior management and operating practices resulted in the financial collapse of the utility, sporadic and unreliable power supplies, sewage overflows, and acute public health violations. This, he said, is what led to the federal lawsuit that resulted in these management changes.

He said the new management not only has the technical background to implement important changes to improve service and regulatory compliance, but the expertise to implement sound business practices. This includes seeking rates that equal its operating expenses as required under CNMI law and in accordance with the federal stipulated orders.

Fletcher said that CUC hears and understands the difficulties its ratepayers face.

"Our costs have gone up mostly due to the price of oil. In the last 10 years, fuel prices have increased by 400 percent, and regrettably, this extreme price volatility is outside of local control. Today, the cost of fuel accounts for over 60 percent of customer power, water, and wastewater bills. Even with the high price of fuel, CUC's electric rates are on par with similar utilities generating electricity with diesel fuel. In fact, we are lower than most. Despite this, everyone at CUC is working to become more efficient every day. From fuel efficiency at the power

plant, to electrical usage at the wastewater treatment plants, there is a sincere effort to balance operating expense with our high cost-of-service," he said.

CUC also experienced increases, he said, due to inflation, wages, and the hiring of experienced technical and professional staff that have the expertise required by EPA to improve CUC's services to its customers.

"Many of today's operating approaches are required under the stipulated orders in order to manage the utility in compliance with federal regulations. Also, CUC has been slowly cleaning up its financial troubles by renegotiating old contracts that were unfavorable to CUC, paying old bills, staying current on today's bills, and settling old disputes and collection activities. These efforts have resulted in obtaining unqualified opinions on the audits for 2010, 2011 and 2012," according to Fletcher.

He pointed out that these are the first audit opinions CUC has ever had where the auditor has not taken exception to CUC's financial reporting.

PMIC buy-out

Fletcher said the early termination buy-out agreement with Pacific Marine Industrial Corp. allows CUC to end a contract early for Power Plant 4, which used to be managed by a private company. He said the buy-out agreement was examined by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and their expert staff agreed that the early termination was a benefit to CUC customers.

"The early termination of this contract means customers will avoid between \$5 million to \$8 million in future costs through rates. Some people have said that the PMIC buy-out is an added expense that will increase rates. In fact, payments to PMIC for this contract have always been in our base rates. The PMIC contract was a "take or pay" contract that guaranteed a \$340,000 minimum payment each month to PMIC whether the power plant operated or not. That same rate money of \$340,000 per month is what is being used to pay the buy-out obligation. The payment was reclassified as a separate

surcharge so that we can track it separately. The surcharge is the same amount as what we were paying before out of rates for the guaranteed monthly payment," he said.

He said the reason CUC asked the CPUC to call this amount a surcharge is that after the contract is paid off, the commission can then decide whether or not to continue keeping the surcharge in rates. Because CUC would have had to pay this amount anyway, there is no increase to rates.

Office space relocation

It is true that CUC relocated the Water & Wastewater Division to Sadog Tasi, Fletcher said, doing that in part with grant funding and in part with the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade. That did not cost ratepayers money.

"CUC was also able to get a new agreement with our landlord after going through a proper procurement in 2011 for office space. The deal included a substantially reduced price for the Dandan space, which included renovation. The reduced price for the Dandan space allowed for both the remodeling of space at Dandan and the lease of space in Oleai by the same landlord. The reason we transferred the Power Transmission & Distribution section to Oleai was because the power personnel and associated equipment were overcrowded at Dandan, and the Power Division's rolling stock and heavy equipment were parked at the Dandan commercial office building, which was not designed for that," he said.

Also, Fletcher said, there was no space for various hand tools and emergency response supplies, thus requiring expensive and time consuming trips to the CUC warehouse in Lower Base. In addition, there was no space for training its linemen, resulting in time consuming trips to Lower Base for training. All together, he said, this led to gross inefficiencies in CUC operations.

"Now, however, we have two office locations as well as more square footage for operations and customer service, all at a lower lease amount than what we were paying for the Dandan space alone. Our Power Division now has its

large equipment and training facilities in one place, so we can better respond to our customers. Our offices and customer services areas at Dandan have been reconfigured to improve workflow and expand customer services. All of this was done for less money than CUC was paying to rent the old, rundown office space. We consider that an achievement which is beneficial to our ratepayers," he said.

Acquisition of vehicles

Fletcher disclosed that CUC has been able to upgrade much of its fleet for the Water & Wastewater Division. This was done mostly through grants. This is because a few years ago, he said, CUC was trying to operate with a deteriorated, part time fleet.

"CUC had to rent vehicles just to do its work. This was not cost-effective. Also, its old cars were in the shop so often that it was expensive to maintain them. Looking back at some old news reports, there were times when CUC was unable to respond to emergencies due to inoperable equipment, in some cases sewer overflows, causing public health concerns, or power outages where heavy equipment was not readily available. CUC's efforts to get new vehicles is for the purpose of meeting CUC's business needs, improving emergency response, and providing an enhanced level of service to customers," he said.

As for the Power Division, he said trucks and vehicles were bought with a combination of grants and rate money. Vehicles are left at CUC during non-working hours, with the exception of on-call emergency responders.

"CUC has considered efficiency in these vehicle purchases. Where CUC can use an economy car, we do. Where we need a heavy-duty truck, we try to accommodate that need. For example, it is inefficient to purchase a light-duty 4-cylinder mini pickup truck, then load it with a truck crane, hundreds of pounds of tools, and the added weight of equipment and materials, and then expect the vehicle to last. You need a heavy-duty truck for that work, and this is part

of how we make decisions about which vehicles to buy. Having the right equipment for a job is critical in operations, in providing service, and in responding to emergencies.

BURGLARIZED

From Page 1

Shop, the former Eutopia Sports Bar, and YWA CNMI Corp. The glass doors of the five units were shattered either with hollow blocks, rocks, or other hard objects.

Of the five, only the former Eutopia did not lose money or any items as the burglars failed to get inside because of a secondary steel door.

Except for YWA, the burglarized units are all located on the ground floor of the two-story building.

The suspects stole \$500 cash from Saint Trading; less than \$50 in coins from Rosal/Zest Enterprises; \$50 from Modern Hair Salon; and \$28 in cash and coins from YWA CNMI Corp.

The multiple burglaries were discovered when Maura Pajarillaga, a 52-year-old beautician at Modern Hair Salon, reported for work Saturday at 7am and found their glass door shattered and the parlor messed up. Pajarillaga noticed that neighboring establishments had also been burglarized. Police were then called.

Pajarillaga said that bloodstains were all over the floor of their parlor and their cash regis-

ter had been destroyed. She said \$50 cash was stolen from the register and \$15 to \$20 in coins in her bag was also taken.

At Saint Trading, the suspects opened all the drawers and stole \$500 cash.

Neneth Delos Santos, owner of Saint Trading, said they fortunately were able to give the salaries of their employees on Friday so only a few cash was left in the drawer when the incident happened.

Delos Santos said their office was closed Friday at 7:30pm and that she learned about the burglary on Saturday at 8am when one of their employees called her.

Delos Santos said she is very disappointed and hopes that authorities will catch the burglars and the court will not impose a "slap on the wrist."

At Rosal/Zest, the office was also in disarray, and less than \$50 in coins was stolen.

YWA owner Ben T. Fejeran said some teenagers were seen roaming the building prior to the burglary and he hopes police would find them.

The law office of attorney Edward Arriola Sr., which is located between the Rosal/Zest and Modern Hair Salon was not burglarized. Some other establishments where tenants stay were spared by the burglars.

INSURANCE

From Page 1

is \$.58 per \$1,000 of basic life benefits payable biweekly at 1.8 times annual salary. This means an employee earning \$25,000 will pay \$11.60 for a \$45,000 life insurance policy. Premium is calculated as follows: (\$25,000 x .58)/1000 = \$11.60. The benefit is calculated as follows: \$25,000 x 1.8 = \$45,000.

For retirees, payment is \$.63 per \$1,000 of basic life benefits payable semi-monthly at 1.8 times reduced annual pension. As an example, a retiree earning \$25,000 will pay \$15.75 for a \$45,000 life insurance policy. Premium is calculated as follows: (\$25,000 x .63)/1000 = \$15.75; while benefit is calculated as follows: \$25,000 x 1.8 = \$45,000

"The rates for government employees and retirees are the same annually; however, the \$.05 difference is because there are 26 pay periods for government employees and 24 pension pay periods for retirees," Pangelinan said in a memorandum.

The new rates for government employees will take effect on the Feb. 21, 2014, pay period and the Feb. 15 pension pay period for retirees.

For members who are currently enrolled in the life insurance program and wish to maintain their coverage, Pangelinan said they do not have to do anything. But if they wish to terminate their coverage, they must complete and turn in a notice of termination available at the NMI Retirement Fund office or on its website at www.nmiretirement.com.

JORGENSEN

From Page 1

They said negotiations took place over a three-and-a-half-month period, mostly by telephone.

"The parties are in the process of finalizing the written agreement documenting this settlement, which shall be submitted to the court upon execution," Patel and the two lawyers said.

Jorgensen's initial request was at least \$18.6 million, while Woodruff's was \$2.9 million.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood has given the CNMI government, Jorgensen, and Woodruff until Friday to file agreed motions to approve the settlements they reached on the two lawyers' petitions for attorneys' fees and costs.

Tydingco-Gatewood disclosed that the CNMI government advised her last Wednesday that it has reached settlements with both Jorgensen and Woodruff, but did not reach a settlement with Johnson's Hawaii-based counsel Bronster Hoshibata law

firm or Johnson's other counsel, Timothy Lord.

The judge gave anyone who objects to the settlements between the CNMI and Jorgensen and Woodruff until Feb. 19, 2014, to submit their oppositions/objections. Replies to such oppositions/objections shall be filed no later than Feb. 24, 2014.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she will hold a hearing on the stipulated motions to approve on March 4, 2014, immediately following the presentation of Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C.H. Tang on the status of the settlement fund.

With respect to Bronster Hoshibata's petition, the judge will hold an evidentiary hearing today at 8:30am. The hearing will be vacated if a settlement agreement is reached prior to the hearing and a stipulated motion to approve the settlement will be heard on March 4.

On Lord's petition, Tydingco-Gatewood set the evidentiary hearing for March 4 at 9am.

Bronster Hoshibata is demanding \$17.5 million, while Lord's initial demand was either \$3.6 million or \$5.9 million.

RESOLUTION

From Page 2

a contract for Telesource on Tinian, and increased contract payment for this extension.

He said Fletcher appears to want the CNMI to be locked in to this Telesource contract "when it should be looking for ways and alternative to generating electricity thereby realizing savings to its consumers."

The vice speaker said CUC's water and wastewater electric charges are two times higher than actual water usage, thereby aggra-

vating the high cost of utilities.

"Mr. Fletcher has no plans for moving forward or how to balance the management and operations of CUC versus a fair and equitable rate for utilities for its customers," Dela Cruz added.

Fletcher has yet to respond to request for comment.

Fletcher was first hired at CUC in February 2011 as deputy executive director and administrator of the water and wastewater division. He had been at CUC's helm in an acting capacity since May 2012. Inos later selected Fletcher to serve as CUC executive director.

Ada takes the helm of MPLT board

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The full board of trustees of the Marianas Public Land Trust chose Friday a new leader in the person of Martin Ada, who, this early, expressed a “change of heart” in the agency’s handling

of longstanding issues with the Department of Public Lands.

Ada was elected to the board chairmanship during a three-hour meeting Friday night. Maria Pangelinan and Melchor Mendiola were also elected vice chair and treasurer respectively.

A former lawmaker, Ada suc-

ceeds two-time chair Pedro Deleon Guerrero.

In his first order of business, the newly elected chairman specifically assigned Pangelinan to handle all DPL matters, a decision that was strongly opposed by Deleon Guerrero.

According to him, Pangelinan’s appointment to handle “all and any DPL issues” will take away the matter from the full board.

“We’re moving forward with the issues on DPL. In fact, we did meet with the governor and there was a request that we wait until the completion of DPL’s 2013 audit report. [So] I don’t believe we should continue to prolong the issue on DPL because it’s way overdue. I for one, I’d like to see we continue

to move forward in resolving the issue with DPL,” said Deleon Guerrero.

It will be recalled that the MPLT board has had a consensus since last year to take DPL to court for failing to remit lease monies to MPLT. This “consensus” was reached after DPL reportedly failed to cooperate in providing MPLT with financial records and remittances.

Deleon Guerrero said that, based on MPLT’s initial information, DPL failed to remit to MPLT some \$8.5 million in revenue from public land leases.

But according to Ada, Pangelinan’s appointment is not

meant to take away the matter from the full board since Pangelinan is tasked to report all and any DPL matters back to the board. Citing Pangelinan’s good relationship with the current DPL leadership and the Inos administration, Ada is confident that the parties will



Ada

reach an amicable solution on the unremitted funds. Ada further pointed out that Pangelinan will serve as the “point of contact” on DPL issues.

Deleon Guerrero reminded Ada that he was among the trustees who previously pushed for a lawsuit against DPL. “In fact, you moved that ‘we take them to court,’” said the former chairman.

Ada, however, stood firm in

the “new direction” he wants MPLT to take at this time, specifically on DPL matters.

“If we do take them to court, would that force DPL to remit us the money?” asked Ada.

Deleon Guerrero remained adamant on the issue. “Even before I got in, even before we all got in here, we have these issues with DPL and MPLT has been so patient. The way, Mr. Chairman, you want to have it handled now will only stall these issues,” argued Deleon Guerrero, adding that “making such an appointment is contrary to the fiduciary duty of a trustee.”

Pangelinan’s appointment to handle all DPL issues was later adopted by a 4-1 vote. Others who voted in favor of Pangelinan’s appointment are Melchor Mendiola, Pete Cruz, Pangelinan, and Ada.

Congress urged to give 200-mile submerged lands to CNMI now

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Barely two weeks after President Barack Obama withheld transfer to the CNMI of five of its 14 islands’ 3-mile submerged lands, the local House of Representatives adopted Friday afternoon a joint resolution urging Congress to recognize the rights of people of Northern Marianas descent to control its exclusive economic zone—the submerged lands and water extending 200 miles around the islands.

By a vote of 19-1, the House adopted Rep. Felicidad Ogu-moro’s (R-Saipan) House Joint Resolution 18-1 introduced a year ago.

House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), the only one who voted “no,” said it is not only “unreal” but also “too early” to ask Congress for control over the 200 miles surrounding the CNMI islands, considering that the CNMI has yet to control all of its 3-mile submerged lands.

This also comes over four months since the enactment of a U.S. law conveying submerged lands to the CNMI.

Moreover, on Jan. 15, Obama exempted from the transfer to the CNMI the control of sub-

merged lands around Farallon de Pajaros (Uracas), Maug, and Asuncion that are part of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, as well as Tinian and Farallon de Medinilla that are under lease to the U.S. military.

Dela Cruz also said a 200-mile radius could also mean the CNMI is infringing on Guam territory, considering the short distance between Rota and Guam.

“Are we also saying we’re going to go beyond Guam? Saipan to Guam alone is only over 100 miles, how much more is Rota to Guam? I believe this is unreal. Maybe this is an issue that can be brought through Section 902 talks,” Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

HJR 18-1, which now goes to the Senate, requests and urges Congress “to recognize the longstanding ancestral rights of persons of Northern Marianas descent with respect to their ownership of the submerged lands of the Northern Mariana Islands and its adjacent waters.”

It specifically asks for CNMI control over “waters and submerged lands surrounding the Northern Mariana Islands from the mean low tide mark to 200 miles.”

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- **Gualo Rai:** Vacant Land for sale 4,000 square meters. Asking: \$50,000.00

VACANT LAND IN TINIAN

- **Tinian:** Vacant Land in Tinian for sale. Lot 114 T14: 4,185 square meters. Asking: \$7,500.00. Lot 114 T05: 25,000 square meters. Asking: \$45,000.00. Lot 102 T21: 3,643 square meters. Asking: \$7,300.00. Lot 118 T04: 1,190 square meters. Asking: \$2,500.00

SADOG TASI PROPERTY

- **Sadog Tasi:** Vacant Land for sale 40,280 square meters. Asking: \$30.00 per square meter

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- **Horizon Building:** Commercial Building for sale location in Garapan, 4,000 square feet with warehouse. Asking: \$400,000.00

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A CHAMORRO BUCK STORY:

Military vet ‘at ease’ after years of selfless service

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Vietnam veteran Sgt. Maj. Herman Atalig, who has served in many leadership positions in his 28-year career in active duty Army and 10 years as a sergeant major, resigned last week from his post as the JROTC instructor of Rota’s Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior/Senior High School.

He explained that, at this juncture in his life, he decided to retire due to his need to fully heal from three major surgeries he recently had.

“My future plan is to maintain the healing process and to continue to work as a public servant as well as to volunteer at the RHI JR./Sr. High School,” he said.

Atalig shared how he made a personal commitment that one day he would share the tools and values he learned in the military that were instrumental in his success and to fulfill his father’s dream to return to his ancestral Island, Rota, to serve his people. Immediately after retiring from the military, Atalig began his 15-year career with the JROTC program on Rota.

He said that one of the greatest testaments of a teacher’s legacy are the accomplishments of the students under the educator’s guidance.

“At the inception of my JROTC career, it was my hope that one day the cadets would be able to command and control the unit by the chain of command effectively and efficiently,” he said.

During his five-month medical leave, he said the cadets on the southern island clearly proved themselves to be competent enough to control the unit on their own.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Atalig enumerated the many accolades the Chamorro Buck Battalion has achieved during his 15-year tenure at the public high school.

He said that some of the greatest memories he has had with the Rota school is garnering first place five times at the CNMI JROTC Interisland Competition, receiving Honor Unit with Distinction, the most prestigious accomplishment in the JROTC Program during five Annual Inspections that was conducted by ranking military



From left, Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior/Senior High School principal Sharlene Manglona, RHI Buck Battalion cadets and, far right, SGM Herman Atalig and Board of Education member Tanya King.

officers from Fort Lewis, Washington, and being awarded three congressional/Senate resolutions for excellence.

Two years ago, the group competed in the 8th Brigade Drill Competition and won first place in the Unarmed Drill, vying against 24 schools nationwide. Last year, although most of the cadets were 9th graders, they competed at the varsity level of the National Golden Bear Competition in California against 54 schools and won third place in the Unarmed Drill

Competition.

In 2004, the cadets created a Buck Memory Book and for the past several years the cadets developed an annual DVD documenting their accomplishments. Additionally, for the past 15 years they have created a monthly newsletter highlighting their activities.

Although the Rota cadets have accomplished tasks and received awards above expectations, Atalig feels the greatest accomplishment of the cadets is “their ability to plan,

organize, coordinate, and execute any event.”

“They have devoted thousands of hours for community and school support and JROTC performances.”

Board of Education Rota representative Denise Tanya King said she is impressed most with Atalig’s “integrity, humility, sense of honor, and determination to give 150 percent in everything he does. He exemplifies the quote ‘walks softly with a large stick.’”

Of the various military as-

signments Atalig has completed, he cherishes the most serving as an ROTC instructor at Rutgers University, Inspector General Sergeant Major, Battle Staff Sergeant Major, and Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Reserve Component in Guam.

He also received the Distinguished Service Medal and Legion of Merit Medal.

“I appreciate the unwavering support of the Board of Education, particularly Tanya D. King, Commissioner of Education Dr. Rita Sablan, the DAI, LTC Robert Gay and his staff for providing resources, Ms. Sharlene Manglona, RHI Jr./Sr. Principal for her unconditional support, compassion and always leading from the front, the RHI faculty and staff, and last but not the least the cadets who have worked relentlessly as a family.”

Atalig said it has been a distinct honor and privilege to have worked with such incredible cadets and that whoever is hired to replace him will be blessed with a high performing unit.

“I want to thank our friends and families for their prayers which were instrumental in my recovery,” he added.

Aside from the Vietnam War, Atalig was also part of the mobilization task force in the Panama Invasion and a part of the Battle Team during the Kuwait Liberation.

Senators question E Land’s ability, commitment

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sens. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan) and Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) have asked Department of Public Lands to consider their concerns about South Korea giant E Land’s commitment—or its lack—both in completing the Coral Ocean Point renovation and building a new hotel if

E Land be granted the right to lease a piece of public land in San Antonio.

DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio acknowledged receipt of the senators’ letter. He said yesterday that DPL has not decided yet on the San Antonio property.

An ad-hoc committee is still evaluating the proposals of two short-listed companies that responded to an RFP involv-

ing the lease of 40,827 square meters in San Antonio for the development of a hotel with at least 200 rooms.

Besides E Land’s Micronesia Resort Inc., the other shortlisted entity is the Hong Kong-based Honest Profit International Ltd.

Reyes and Manglona inquired on the status of E Land’s compliance with its lease agreement for Coral


Ocean Point. E Land is part-owner and new investor in Coral Ocean Point, based on their understanding.

“We took note that E Land is also involved in the acquisition of Palms Resort Hotel. Though we understand that Palms Resort is situated on private land, they have not done any visible improvement on the property that can contribute to the increasing need of the CNMI to provide necessary rooms for our increasing number of tourists choosing CNMI as destination. The concerns you raised on the lack of activity in COP to meet compliance and our concerns above compel us to write this letter to you,” Reyes and Manglona told DPL’s Tenorio.

The senators added that they look forward to DPL’s early action in awarding the San Antonio project to a company “that can begin the proposed project immediately so the CNMI can begin to meet the need for our growing tourism industry.”

DPL recently selected Tan Holdings over E Land’s Micronesia Resort Inc. for a long-term lease of almost 10 hectares of public lands in Marpi, where Tan Holdings proposes to build an over \$133 million, 455-room high-end hotel resort.

This is in connection with DPL’s RFP for a long-term lease of two lots in Marpi totaling 99,005 square meters. Tan Holdings and E Land’s MRI bested three other investors that also submitted proposals.



Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
Saipan, As Terlaje Campus
Tel: 234-5498 Fax: (670) 235-7601

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE
“USED VEHICLES”
NMC-PAN 14-001

This is to inform the general public that Northern Marianas College (NMC) will be conducting a One Day Sealed Bid Auction on NMC ROTA. The auction will be held on Tuesday, February 25th, 2014 at the NMC ROTA Instructional Site, building B.


Bids submission is due not later than 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 25th, 2014. Any bids received after 9:00 a.m. will not be accepted. Bid Opening will start at 1:00 p.m.

The auction shall be made individually. Minimum bids are set for the vehicles. All vehicles are sold “As Is” and “Where Is” and without Warranty. The bidders is required to pay 20% down payment in US Currency in the form of a check made payable to the Northern Marianas College. Funds or checks will be returned to unsuccessful bidders. Balance shall be payable within two (2) calendar days from auction closing date, failure to pay will result in the forfeiture of the down payment. Payment shall be in Cashier Check or Money Order payable to NMC.


The used vehicles may be inspected at the NMC, Rota Instructional Site by contacting Ms. Evelyn Mendiola at telephone number (670) 532-9477 and/or Robert Suzuki (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6823/4 Fax (670) 235-7601 or email robert.suzuki@marianas.edu or anita.camacho@marianas.edu to get information and instructions.

Interested individuals must register and pick up a NMC Sealed Bid Form at NMC Rota, Rota Instructional Site commencing 9:00AM, Wednesday January 29, 2014.

ss/ Anita Camacho
Procurement Property Manager



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- a. Division Monthly/Annual Reports
- b. Lease Proposal – 003 D 16
- c. NMPASI Office Space Request
- d. Return and Reallocation Request – Isa Villas
- e. Travel Policy
- f. Personnel
- g. Update on CDBG Matters
 - 1. On-going Projects
 - 2. Amendments to Policies and Procedures
- h. Update on NSP Policies and Procedures
- i. Update on Program and Housing Division Matters
 - 1. Lease-Up and Waiting List
 - 2. Blue Bay Homes
 - 3. FY 2013 SEMAP Score
 - 4. Koblerville Multifamily Subdivision Boundary Encroachment
 - 5. Project Based Voucher Request for Proposals
 - 6. Reduction in Landlord HAP
- j. Update on Mortgage & Credit Division Matters
 - 1. Request to Change Approved Use
 - 2. Request to Retrieve File
 - 3. Request to Refinance
 - 4. Loans for Approval
 - 5. Amendments to HOME Policies and Procedures

IV. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS

- a. Rota Field Office
- b. Tinian Field Office

V. FISCAL AFFAIRS

- a. FY 2013 and December 2013 Financial Statements
- b. Performance Assessment Report

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL’S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT


VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. OTHER MATTERS


IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board



Public Participation Requirement
CNMI Public School System



Early Intervention Program and Special Education Program

Pursuant to Part B and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004, & GEPA, the Public School System Special Education Program and Early Intervention Program are required to provide at least 60 days prior to submission of grant applications for funds, a 60 day circulation notice with an opportunity for public comment on the application for at least 30 days during that period and provide an opportunity for the general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of infants, toddlers and youth with disabilities, to provide comments.

Part C – Early Intervention Program

Public Circulation Period: February 5, 2014 thru April 5, 2014

Public Comment Period: February 13, 2014 thru March 17, 2014

Part B – Special Education Program

Public Circulation Period: February 17, 2014 thru April 18, 2014

Public Comment Period: March 1, 2014 thru March 31, 2014

Hard copies of the Grant Applications are available from Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm at the following locations:

Office of Special Education Programs, PSS in Susupe-237-3029
Children’s Development Assistance Center (CDAC) in Garapan 664-4841

You may also access the Grant Applications on the PSS Website:
www/cnmipss.org/state-level-programs/curriculum-instruction:assessment/special-education-early-intervention-program/grant-applications

Comments may be submitted by fax to (670) 664-3774, hand delivered to the Office of Special Education Program located on the 2nd floor PSS Central Bldg., Susupe, or phone your comments into

Special Education Program: 237-3029

Children’s Dev. Assistance Center: 664-4841

For more information, please contact Ms. Suzanne W. Lizama, Director, Special Education Program at 237-3029, Robin L. Palacios, Interim Coordinator, Early Intervention Program at 664-4841.

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TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD.,
Plaintiff,

MATTHEW A. OOKA and RITA M. OOKA,
Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION
NO. 13-0238

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff’s attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated January 23, 2014 by order of the Court:

/s/Clerk of Court

Govendo dismisses 2 more charges vs Buckingham

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo has dismissed two more of the remaining 10 charges filed against former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham.

In a 21-page order on Friday, Govendo granted Buckingham's motion to dismiss the charge of obstructing justice by interfering with the service of process and the charge of misconduct in office.

Both charges are based on the same alleged act: that Buckingham, being aware that a penal summons was issued against him, engaged "in a course of conduct intended to deceive, resist and/or otherwise prevent" the effectuation of service upon him.

Govendo ruled that having found that the penal summons was invalid, the court need not address the issue of whether a physical threat or physical resistance is required under Commonwealth law.

The judge previously determined that the penal summons was invalid as it was signed by the clerk of court and not by a judge.

In the same order, Govendo denied Buckingham's motion to dismiss seven other charges. He dismissed one other charge

as it relates to a certain punishment section of the law, but allowed the charge to proceed to trial as it relates to other punishment sections.

The Office of the Public Auditor filed 12 criminal charges against Buckingham in connection with an alleged violation of election laws and illegal award of a sole-source contract, among others.

Buckingham, through counsel Richard W. Pierce, filed a motion to dismiss all 12 counts in the second amended information.

The CNMI, through Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel/assistant attorney general George L. Hasselback, opposed the motion. Hasselback, however, moved to voluntarily dismiss two counts.

Last Jan. 21, Govendo dismissed two charges of misconduct in public office against Buckingham. The charges were related to the alleged sole-source contract.

Govendo heard the oral arguments last Tuesday on the motion to dismiss the remaining 10 charges.

On count 6 (obstructing justice by interfering with the service of process) and count 7 (misconduct in public office), Buckingham argued that the

penal summons was invalid because it was not signed by a judge and therefore it was impossible for him to have obstructed the service of process.

Buckingham also alleged that obstruction laws traditionally require some type of physical threat or physical resistance.

In the government's response, Hasselback contended that the summons was signed by the clerk of court, a process that had been court policy for over 25 years.

Hasselback also argued that no physical threat or physical resistance is required under Commonwealth law.

In his order Friday, Govendo said that under the NMI Rules of Criminal Procedure, a penal summons must be signed by a judge, describe the offense charged in the information, contain the defendant's name, and "summon the defendant to appear before the court at a stated time and place."

"The penal summons in this case did not meet the first criterion; rather it was signed by the clerk of court," Govendo said in dismissing counts 6 and 7.

The seven other counts that Govendo did not dismiss are count 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, and 11.

Count 1 alleges that Buck-

ingham, as a public official, knowingly and willfully caused public funds, time, personnel, and/or equipment to be used for political and/or campaign activity.

Count 2 alleges he used the name of a government department or agency to campaign for or express support for a candidate running for public office.

Count 3 alleges that, as a public official, Buckingham performed illegal acts under the color of his office.

Count 8 charges theft of service, and count 9 charges misconduct in public office. Both counts surround Buckingham's use of the Office of the Attorney General's personnel and resources to assist in his defense in this case.

Count 10 charges conspiracy to commit theft of services. Specifically, Buckingham is alleged to have conspired with personnel from the Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and other government agencies to have a police escort take him to the airport so he could leave the CNMI before being served with the penal summons.

Count 11 charges miscon-

duct in public office. Specifically, Buckingham is alleged to have used his influence to conspire to assure that services were diverted to his benefit.

On count 1, Buckingham claims that the charge is preempted by Federal Election Commission Act because it arises from the election of the Commonwealth's delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Govendo, however, ruled that there can be no doubt that FECA does not preempt Commonwealth's laws regulating the actions of public employees relating to elections.

On count 2, Buckingham claims that the statutory definition of "candidate" prevents criminalization of his actions. He also argues that the CNMI law infringes on his First Amendment rights.

Govendo ruled that the statute does not in any way encroach upon an individual's ability to support a candidate in his private capacity as a citizen.

"Instead it prevents individuals from using the influence inherently connected with a government department or agency in their campaigning efforts," the judge pointed out.

With respect to count 3,

Govendo said this count mirrors the allegations as stated in counts 1 and 2 that he determined will proceed to trial.

Pertaining to Counts 8 and 9, Buckingham claims that the court already ruled that an assistant attorney general could appear at his arraignment.

Govendo said by allowing this limited appearance by assistant attorney general Gil Birnrich, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman expressed his concern and stated that he did not believe the Office of the Attorney General had the authority to represent an individual in a criminal matter.

"Thus, the issue of whether defendant was entitled to the services rendered by the OAG has not yet been decided by the court," Govendo said.

Buckingham argues that counts 10 and 11 should be dismissed because there is no law within the Commonwealth that renders a police escort unlawful.

Govendo stated that, while this is true, it is equally true that an individual is not entitled to receive a service that would impede a law enforcement officer from fulfilling his duties or to actively disregard those duties.

Buckingham's bench trial will start on Feb. 10.



Buckingham



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-14-002 (Rev.1)

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TYPHOON RECOVERY MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials for CUC Power Division, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$80.00 for one IFB package set. Registrants of CUC-IFB-14-002 are exempted from paying the required fee. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 10, 2014** to be considered.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-002(Rev.1), Supply & Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 28, 2014** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 12, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, Engineer, CUC Power Division via email address alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-14-010

SAN ANTONIO AND GARAPAN SEWERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of sewerline in San Antonio and Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) sewerline in Garapan and San Antonio area. The project is to replace approximately ± 1099 LF of existing 8-inch ACP, ± 887 LF of existing 12-inch ACP, ± 374 LF of existing 15-inch ACP, existing concrete manhole repairs, 6-inch and 4-inch service laterals connection, wastewater by pass pumping and road restoration. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 5, 2014 to be considered.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 31, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-010, San Antonio and Garapan Sewerline Replacement Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 14, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 05, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Brian Bearden, Senior Engineer, CUC Water/Wastewater Division via email address brian.bearden@cucgov.org and Birhen Martinez, Engineer, Water/Wastewater Division via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Super Bowl Monday destinations

It's Super Bowl Monday on Saipan and local hotels and watering holes hope to satisfy local gridiron fans' appetite for American football by hosting their own Super Bowl parties.

Denver Broncos and Seattle Seahawks fans on island don't need to travel to MetLife Stadium at the Meadowlands Sports Complex in East Rutherford, New Jersey, to watch their teams duke it out for Super Bowl XLVII.

As an added bonus, local Super Bowl venues are offering tasty buffet spreads, all-you-can-drink beverages, and raffle prizes galore.

Naked Fish Bar & Cafe

In its first major event since moving to Susupe, the renamed Naked Fish Bar & Café is promising "big screens and great food and drinks" for their 2014 Bud Light Super Bowl Party.

The all-you-can-eat-and-drink event costs only \$20 and doors open at 8am. Draft pitchers are also available for \$12.

The first 50 guests will also get a 2014 Bud Light Super Bowl Party T-shirt and a chance to win up to \$10,000 in cash. Other Super Bowl gear giveaways include canopies, coolers, and chairs.

Fiesta Resort & Spa

The Garapan landmark will host its own Super Bowl XLVII party at Chambre Bar. It costs \$20 and includes breakfast buffet and two San Miguel beers. Guests also have a chance to win marvelous prizes.

Doors open at 7:30am and for reservations call, 233-6414, 234-6414, or 483-6414.

PIC Saipan

Pacific Islands Club Saipan is inviting football fans to their self-styled Monday Grid Iron at Charley's Cabaret.

Over \$2,000 worth of prizes will be raffled off including new cell phones from Docomo, PIC Room Nights, and \$500 cash.

Monday Grid Iron costs \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 4-11 years old. It includes The Magellan breakfast buffet, unlimited Miller beer and Pepsi, and Certified Angus Beef sliders courtesy of Triple J.

Monday Grid Iron is sponsored by Docomo Pacific, Pacific Trading Co. and Miller, and Triple J.

For reservations, call 237-4126 or 237-5104.

Saipan World Resort

Touchdown Monday at its Red

Box outlet is what Saipan World Resort is offering to local gridiron fans.

Entry fee is \$20 and includes bottomless San Miguel beer and San Miguel Light,

AG announces interim positions

Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas has confirmed that the position of interim chief prosecutor will be handled by assistant attorney general Brian Flaherty and interim first assistant will be managed by assistant attorney general Bobbie Cepeda. Both will assume their respective posts beginning Feb. 3, 2014.

"It is with pleasure that I announce our interim officials who will be supervising the Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Division during the ongoing reorganization of our office," stated San Nicolas. "Mr. Flaherty will head the division as interim chief prosecutor and Ms. Cepeda as interim first assistant. I have great confidence that their experience and competence will successfully carry out this reorganization in the criminal division."

Flaherty has been an assistant attorney general for the CNMI Office of the Attorney General since 2012. He received his law

Pepsi, and breakfast and Rush Hour Lunch.

Great prizes will also be raffled off from Touchdown Monday sponsors Docomo Pacific, San Miguel, and Saipan World Resort.

For reservations, call 234-5900 ext. 344 or 388. *(Mark Rabago)*

degree from the University of Iowa College of Law. Prior to becoming an attorney, Flaherty had a decade of experience in project management, communications and government affairs.

Cepeda brings with her 16 years of legal experience. Cepeda began her legal career as a law clerk to Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III and moved on to become an AAG for the Criminal Division of the Guam Office of the Attorney General. In 2003, Cepeda became deputy AG for the Child Support Enforcement Division where she directed the development and implementation of local policies and procedures for child support, in addition to managing the fiscal accountability of the division. Before embarking on her journey to the CNMI, Cepeda worked as a legal counsel for the Lt. Governor of Guam. She earned her law degree from the University of Oregon Law School. *(OAG)*

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 3, 2006

CUC as fuel supplier?

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. may find itself in the business of selling motor fuel if a proposed legislation in the House of Representatives is adopted into law. Rep. Ray Yumul yesterday pre-filed a House bill that would allow CUC to purchase and sell motor fuel supply to independent retail service dealers. CUC, which has a two-year contract with Mobil Oil Marianas, is buying power generation fuel at a rate lower than pump prices. According to Yumul, CUC is currently not purchasing the maximum volume of fuel allowed by the contract, as many power generators are not operational.

'No more early payroll for direct deposit teachers'

Public school teachers who used to receive their biweekly payroll early through direct deposit procedures will no longer get their salaries ahead of their counterparts. PSS director of finance Richard Waldo confirmed this yesterday, saying that teachers who get their salary through direct deposit would get their money on the same day as the other teachers who get paid through checks. He said the local government remits to them the payroll funds just one day before payday, which is usually Friday.

February 3, 2007

Labor to issue another list

The Department of Labor's Division of Administrative Hearing is planning to release another list—this time containing the names of alien workers who have expired permits but have labor cases. Division of Administrative Hearing administrator Rose T. Ada-Hocog told Saipan Tribune they will be issuing another list of individuals who have expired permits based on the hearing office's administrative orders. "This list will include those who have exceeded the 45 days and have not found employers and those who were ordered to depart and did not depart," Ada-Hocog said.

Planned Outback resto on hold

With the future of the Commonwealth's labor and immigration system uncertain, at least one company has decided to hold off on a plan to open a new business on Saipan. Triple J Saipan general manager Jay B. Jones disclosed yesterday that his company's long-time plan to buy a franchise of Outback Steakhouse would remain on hold until the CNMI gets a clearer picture of how much labor and immigration control it would have in the future. "We are seriously considering an Outback Restaurant for Saipan. It's been in our plan for a number of years now. But at this point, it really is on hold until we can get a little more comfortable with the future of the labor and immigration issues in the CNMI," Jones said.

February 3, 2008

New prison facility in Susupe finally opens

After a long delay, the state-of-the-art adult prison facility on a 100,000 square-foot lot in Susupe was finally opened yesterday. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Timothy H. Villagomez, judges David A. Wiseman and Ramona V. Manglona, and Department of Corrections Commissioner Lino Tenorio led the ribbon cutting for the new correctional facility, officially called the Vicente Taman Seman Memorial Building. Miriam K. Seman, widow of Vicente Seman, and their children, grandchildren, relatives, and friends attended the ceremony.

Light timers to be installed at Garapan basketball court

Light timers will soon be installed at the Garapan basketball court across the Bank of Guam to ensure that the lights will be turned off at night. According to Division of Parks & Recreations division director Tony Benavente, he pitched the idea to the Department of Public Works' Technical Division about implementing a two-hour light timer that will automatically turn the lights off at the basketball court. This came about after residents raised concerns as to why the lights are being left on after hours. One concerned resident said in an e-mail, "When I drove by Garapan basketball court this morning at 8:45am, the lights were still on. This means that it has been on for at least 15 hours (6pm to 9am), so you can imagine how much power we are wasting. [This] highlights the serious problem of wasting power at all the basketball courts."


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP14-HSEM-032**

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2014 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"INSTALLATION AND PROVISION OF AN ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM FOR THE CNMI'S COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT SUSUPE, SAIPAN"


COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, ON FEBRUARY 13, 2014, AT THE CNMI'S COURTHOUSE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN MP 96950. ALL PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS THAT DO NOT HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE IN ATTENDANCE WILL BE CONSIDERED NON-RESPONSIVE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SOLICITATION.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S


**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**


REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP: RFP14-HSEM-056

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"AIRCONDITIONING REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE FOR HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY – EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER"

Copies of the RFP packet may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held at 9:00 a.m., local time, on February 12, 2014, at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. All prospective offerors that do not have a representative in attendance will be considered non-responsive to the requirements of this solicitation.

The CNMI government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Marvin K. Seman
Special Assistant for Homeland Security and Emergency Management

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

Job Vacancy Announcement

Marketing Representative / Delivery Man (1 position) \$5.55/hour
Qualification Requirements:
*SOC ONet 41-4011.00 *Must have a 2 college degree with at least 2 year fulltime relevant work experience in a non-alcohol beverage wholesale industry or a high school diploma with possessing minimum 5 year fulltime relevant work experience in a non-alcohol beverage wholesale industry *Holding a valid CNMI driver's license *Able to work under pressure with flexible work hours *Good in basic business math with honest personal characters

Marketing Assistant Manager (1 position) \$6.50/hour
Qualification Requirements:
*SOC ONet 11-2021.00 *Must have a 4-college degree with at least 4 year fulltime relevant work experience in a non-alcohol beverage wholesale industry or a 2-year college degree with at least 8 year fulltime relevant work experience in a non-alcohol beverage wholesale industry *Holding a valid CNMI driver's license *Able to work under pressure with flexible work hours *Good in basic business math with honest personal characters

Office Adm/Operations Manager (1 position) \$7.00/hour
Qualification Requirements:
*SOC synthesized ONet 11-1021.00 & 11-3011.00 *Must have a 4-college degree with at least 4 year fulltime relevant work experience in a non-alcohol beverage wholesale industry or a high-school diploma with possessing minimum 10 year fulltime relevant work experience in a non-alcohol beverage wholesale industry *Holding a valid CNMI driver's license *Able to work under pressure with flexible work hours *Good in basic business math with honest personal characters

Purchasing Administrative Assistant (1 position) \$6.50/hour
Qualification Requirements:
*SOC ONet 11-3061.00 *Must have a 4-college degree with at least 2 year fulltime relevant work experience in a non-alcohol beverage wholesale industry or a 2-year college degree with at least 6 year fulltime relevant work experience in a non-alcohol beverage wholesale industry *Well knowledge in Chinese merchandise and export government regulations and processing *Fluent in Chinese speaking, listening, reading and writing *Able to work under pressure with flexible work hours *Willing to travel frequently *Good in basic business math with honest personal characters

Interested applicants please submit a resume with supporting documents to APEX Corporation, Contact Person: Michael Zhang or Peter Xu, Fax number: (670) 288-3389 before 5:00 P.M., February 6, 2014. Thank you.

Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

Aquaculture Farmer
Job duties: Feeding and monitoring of live aquatic animals, cleaning of tanks, weighing of feeds, harvesting and packing, nighttime monitoring, grounds maintenance and other related jobs.

Job requirements: High school graduate, in good physical and health condition, able to lift up to 60lbs., knowledge of basic mathematical calculations. Must be willing to work night shifts, be a team player and with good working attitude.

Shrimp Hatchery Supervisor
Job duties: Planning and production of at least 500,000 shrimp larvae every month. Work involves shrimp broodstock selection, maturation and conditioning, breeding and larval rearing. The supervisor is also in charge in the scheduling and delegation of work to aquaculture farmers.

Job requirements: At least 2 years experience in actual L. vannamei hatchery operations. A degree in aquaculture or related field an advantage. Willing to be on call 24 hours. Good in oral and written communication and should be literate in MS Word and Excel spreadsheets.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at the Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, February 13, 2014.

Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC RFP 14-001

Saipan Geothermal Resource Assessment

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms to collect and evaluate scientific data to better determine the potential for development of geothermal energy on Saipan. Available information suggests that the geothermal gradient beneath Saipan may be sufficiently steep to develop geothermal energy to generate electricity.

The technical complexity of the Project and the need to collect and evaluate extensive data will require the successful Proposer to provide the expertise from various professional disciplines, conduct exploratory drilling, and provide equipment and materials necessary to complete the Scope of Work.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 10, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal Conference will be held on January 27, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-001 Saipan Geothermal Resource Assessment" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2014**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 10, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than February 18, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-14-007

ISLAND WIDE ROAD RESTORATION FOR WATERLINE REPAIRS, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Road Restoration for Waterline Repairs, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation, placing of flowable fill and asphalt to replace pavement areas cut by CUC to repair waterlines. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC and DPW. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year if exercised by CUC.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 7, 2014** to be considered.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **January 30, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-007, Island Wide Road Restoration for Waterline Repairs" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 19, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 5, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Engineer, Water-Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Assistant, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than **February 10, 2014**.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-14-008

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of approximately 18,000,000 US gallons annually of **Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel (Grade No. 2-D S15)** for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel shall be uniform, first quality, ultra low sulfur type, which shall conform in all aspects to the requirements, as set forth in "Standard Specification for Diesel Fuel Oil" ASTM D975-11 or the latest revision.

The RFP package may be obtained upon completion of registration and receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective Proposers must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **January 16, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-14-008, Supply & Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **February 6, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees. Note that the CNMI Government at present exempts the fuel supplier from paying liquid fuel tax (currently, \$0.15/gallon).

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **January 21, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Procurement & Supply Manager, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email charles.warren@cucgov.org and Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-14-009

Integrated Resource Plan & Energy Supply Analysis

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to develop CUC's Integrated Resource Plan, which is a long-range plan that will select the most cost-effective mix of energy resources, both supply-side and demand-side, following a review of commercially available base load and renewable energy alternatives. This project will also include the design and development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for total system power supply, the design and implementation of financial models to be used for comparing both energy supply and renewable power integration options, along with Independent Evaluator (IE) services to develop and administer third-party, technical and financial review of received energy supply proposals, for the purposes of advising the CUC during the energy supply proposal selection process.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 10, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal Conference will be held on **January 28, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**, at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-009, Integrated Resource Plan & Energy Supply Analysis" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 26, 2014**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 12, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than February 18, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Is Obama overreaching with executive orders?

By JOEL MATHIS and BEN BOYCHUK
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

President Obama says he plans to advance an ambitious policy agenda this year “with or without Congress.” His latest decision: an executive order raising the minimum wage for federal contractors to \$10.10 an hour.

“I have got a pen and I have got a phone, and I can use that pen to sign executive orders,” the president has said in recent weeks. He echoed the theme in his State of the Union address to Congress this week, saying if legislators refused to act, he would act alone.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, denounced the president’s approach, writing Wednesday in the Wall Street Journal, “When a president can pick and choose which laws to follow and which to ignore, he is no longer a president.”

Do President Obama’s executive orders exceed his constitutional power? Or is he using all of the tools at his disposal in the face of congressional opposition? Ben Boychuk and Joel Mathis, the Red-BlueAmerica columnists, weigh in.

JOEL MATHIS

Two words: “Unitary executive.”

You might not remember those words—Republicans in Congress certainly don’t seem to. They were the name of a theory, advocated by Dick Cheney in particular, under which the George W. Bush administration unilaterally chose to ignore Congress and its legal obligations, pretty much whenever it chose.

A law against warrantless wiretapping? Ignore it.

Treaties against torture? Ignore them.

Don’t like the new law Congress passed? Don’t veto it—sign it, but add a “signing statement” explaining why you won’t actually obey it.

All of this happened with the near-total acquiescence of congressional Republicans throughout the Bush administration. (Ron Paul, as always, was the exception.) Much like their love of fiscal austerity and the filibuster, the GOP rediscovered its fidelity to the rule of law with alacrity in 2009, when President Obama took office.

It’s clear what’s going on here: Republicans don’t believe in a constrained, limited presidency. They believe in constraining and limiting Democrats. It’s not the same thing, and observers can be forgiven for rolling their eyes at the crocodile tears of self-styled defenders of the Constitution.

This isn’t to let Democrats off the hook. They spent the Bush years complaining about abuses of power, and now beg the president to bypass Congress wherever possible. Cynical power-grabbing is a bipartisan exercise.

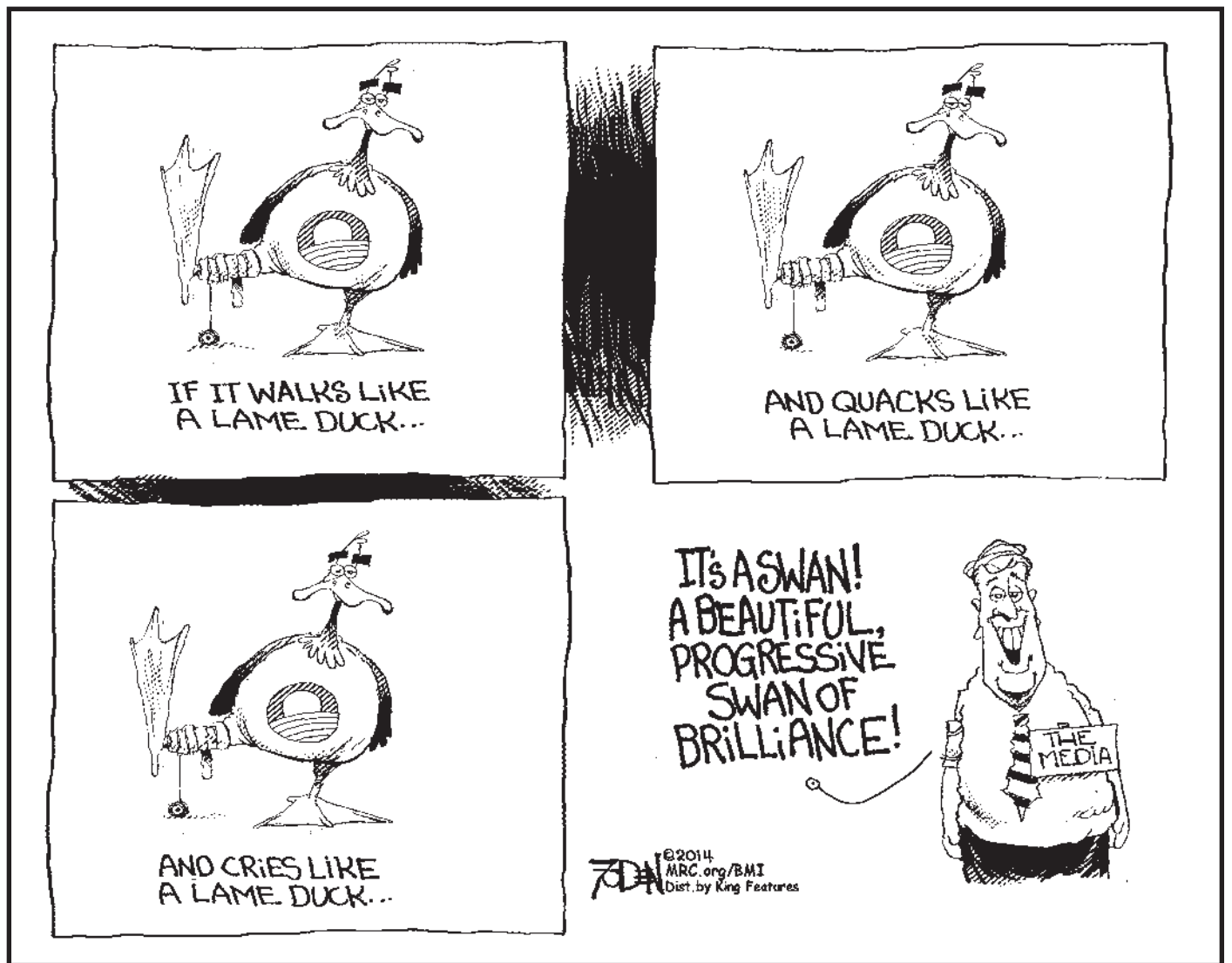
And yes, the president is among the cynical power-grabbers: “Any President takes an oath to, ‘preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States,’” he said when he first ran for president, suggesting he would rein in the excesses of the Bush administration. “The American people need to know where we stand on these issues before they entrust us with this responsibility—particularly at a time when our laws, our traditions, and our Constitution have been repeatedly challenged by this administration.”

So much for that. No matter: That ship has sailed. The cat is out of the bag, the worms out of the can: If Republicans want to limit the presidency, let them prove it when one of their own is in the White House.

BEN BOYCHUK

Fact is, U.S. presidents do have vast powers under Article II of the Constitution, especially when it comes to waging war and protecting national security. But “vast” isn’t the same as “unlimited.” Too

See OBAMA on Next Page



Obama antichrist

State Secretary John Kerry is too messianic in the Israeli defense minister’s view and though we agree that Kerry’s style is too moralistic for comfort (I do not mean “ethical”; he promotes a divisive sense of “ought, or else”), we think that it is time for Israel and the Palestinians to come to terms with what they have created.

Two generations in Gaza and one in the West Bank have known no other home than the limited confines of a concentration camp or what is allowed them by Israel. That is a slew of people who know nothing but to lash back at the source of what they consider to be their oppressors.

Nor does Israel need to live off the mileage of WWII’s Holocaust forever. “Next year in Jerusalem” springs out of the notion that one cannot sing the songs of Zion by the rivers of Babylon. By its own good book, the answer in fact is, yes, we can! That Israel wishes to regain the sovereign boundaries of the Davidic kingdom is understandable but not at the expense of so many.

Obama represents America to the rest of the world, and though he is treated by many religious Republicans and Democrats as one who precedes and prepares the way for the antichrist, a few diehard Americans of a certain political persuasion and stubborn religious fanaticism already peg him as the One!

Derailing Obama has been a loud Republican refrain since 2008 while diehard conservative Democrats grin but politically cast him aside. One may be forgiven the speculation that opposition is deemed stronger on him as a fresh inexperienced former junior senator of Illinois turned executive than what a veteran and more experienced politico like Hillary Clinton would get.

But Hillary lost the Democratic Party’s primary to Barack Obama who went on to better the tandem of McCain and Palin, so we will not know. Banking on the last election’s response, Republicans might have prematurely celebrated their own polls predicting Obama’s defeat. Obama pulled out a miracle from the predictably mundane, a feat normally attributed by the religious to the supernatural!

One of the Republican’s response through Ms. C.R. McMorris (R-Washington) to the recent Obama’s SOTU is an either/or case against the increase in minimum wage toward equitable wealth and benefits distribution. She offered a simple increase on economic profit for anyone willing to try, arguing that what she represents leans toward a focus on potential rather than on limits. She claims that the government is abrogating the right and prerogative of individuals themselves being allowed to make their own choices. Nice rhetoric. Reality is something else.

The metaphor I used during the hectic days of my social activism was the division “between the 15 and the 85 percent” of the population I heard Harvard president Derek Bok use to divide the have and

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



the have-nots. Now the media metaphor describes a gap between the 1 and the 99 percent. More specifically this week, I heard the horrifying figure of 85 folks owning the total worth of 3.5 billion people. That is 85 people’s financial value equals half of the world’s population! That is not injustice; it is a crime against humanity.

Obama as President tried to bring Main Street back to the role Wall Street had abrogated for itself. He has not been that successful. Guantanamo prison remains in existence, though Obama has been heard six times with intent to close it down. That is very telling of how much the President actually has control of the power of the military-industrial complex.

Unfortunately, he used drones to minimize human exposure to surefire danger. It did not work to pacify domestic audiences, though it saves personnel losses as drones went after targets without loss of lives except innocent bystanders on the other side. What is clear are the warm handshakes in corporate board rooms of campaign fund’s contributors who benefit from the application of new technology and the manufacture of war materiel!

In the last SOTU (State of the Union Address), Rep. Randy Weber (R-Tx) tweeted that the crowd waited for the “Kommandant-in-Chief, the socialist dictator who’s been feeding U.S. a line or is it A-Lying?” This would be innocuous comic stuff were it not coming from GOP Rep. Ron Paul’s replacement. Weber fancies himself as the next “Republican troublemaker, if only someone would pay attention,” according to a published description. Of course, Weber is just echoing what his colleague Rep. Paul Broun (R-Ga) tweeted after the 2010 SOTU: Obama believes in “socialism,” not the Constitution!

Aye, there’s the rub. Opposition to Obama and Obamacare stems from America’s historic refusal to establish universal health care ‘cause it is “socialism.” Add Muslim into the picture and we have a cousin to Arafat with an evil eye!

Obama is just an ordinary guy from Illinois, folks. He had the temerity to play President of the United States, an unscripted role only fools and the naïve would want to play. In my view, he is not doing too badly. It is the state of the union that is askew, but that’s another article.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

‘The tide waits for no man’

More than 42 years ago nothing of substance mattered to us except the trust we had in Uncle Sam and the allure of entitlement programs as our all-purpose backstop.

We never saw past our essence and our future. We simply ignored what we needed to load up on our canoe before heading out to our dreamed bright new morning as a permanent part of a larger community. Do we now find the journey one heading into the sunset (twilight) or a new break of dawn?

Today we lament a highly dysfunctional relationship with the feds. We used the misguided nomenclature “renegotiation” when we mean “revisiting” the fundamental provisions of the Covenant Agreement. Is there anything in the agreement that merit improvements? If so, what are they? How do we approach it given the permanency of the arrangement? Is our assertion substantive or platitude-ridden?

Suffice it to say a lot of our frustrations and apparent divisions are internal. To demand imposition of matters solely the purview of the national government is good newspaper copy, nothing else. We may disagree with the feds but how do we approach it with the view that it retracts from treating these isles as a territory?

Lest we forget, our relationship with the feds didn’t spin out of thin air. It was founded on the dreams and hopes of our elderly folks who aspired that our future is a trip into a new break of dawn. They’ve seen the painful dusk before the war, during the war and the long and painful reconstruction period after the war. In short, they were mindful of our future. We are here today!

Is there anything of substance that we wish to revisit with Uncle Sam to revive and re-establish true partnership? How do we approach it and shouldn’t this be the first order of business over a platitude-filled agenda? As it is, our plate is loaded with other issues of major significance requiring resolute review.

We’ve conveniently overlooked economics and fiscal impotence

that require critical review. Shouldn’t these two issues predominate listless provincial matters? We must reset our buttons so we could engage reality check. It begins with the self. It begins with conscious leadership. Let’s do it for the “tide waits for no man.”

Puñeteru syndrome

Under the dome of overcast weather, it was a slow rainy day with steady drizzle that turned monotonous. I figure there’s got to be something interesting to do on this gloomy day. I turned to my local dictionary and happened upon the word “puñeteru.”

It’s a term that vacillates between vulgar and dignity depending upon how it is used. It could stand for arrogance of power, non-existent cultural entitlement, loss of integrity or true north. (See if you could insert your own term here). If you call someone “puñeteru” when you’re miffed, the guy is simply a useless arrogant dumb head. If you use it with humor, you’re being kind in subtle ways.

It’s a fascinating expression that I rarely use. And there’s a reason for it: it was the word in mind when a man (must be a big boss) stepped out of the car for a breakfast meeting. Right behind him was a driver with an umbrella on a day that wasn’t raining nor was the mercury so unbearably high. Perhaps it was a lordly demeanor or give me some instructions how to address this unusual sight.

There were folks around cussing obnoxiously as the man was escorted into the building with an umbrella above his head. There’s but blue skies upstairs, so why the umbrella? I wasn’t sure how to react to it other than to let it slide. It’s none of my business. The use of the umbrella, though, becomes my business. I’ve looked forward to talking to the driver to pry his cranium. Or was he simply being servile to his boss?

Perhaps the man deserves to be left alone as a citizen for the sake of protecting endangered common courtesy. Or are we so headless and intrusive to even dictate his conduct? What if in fact he’s earned his dues as a former mayor? What if he’s been a generous businessman during his prime years? Do we really trip him up just for

myRA: A start to a secure retirement

By **JACOB J. LEW**
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Over the last five years, our country has accomplished a number of big things. The economy has grown stronger after being shaken to the core by the worst recession in our lifetimes. Our businesses have created more than 8 million jobs. The financial system is more resilient, with better protections for consumers and investors. And investments in domestic energy production have helped put the promise of American energy independence in sight.

In the meantime, health-care costs have grown at their slowest rates in years while millions of families now have access to affordable health care coverage so they are not one hospital visit away from falling into financial ruin. Our auto industry is surging even as home values are rebounding. And the federal deficit has been cut by more than half.

So we have made clear progress. But we all understand that we are not where we want to be yet. Too many Americans cannot find a job. Too many Americans who do have a job are not getting paid enough to support their families and make ends meet. And too many Americans do not have the skills they need to succeed in today’s economy.

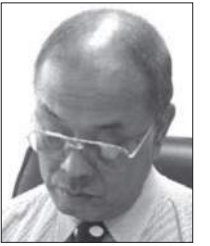
As President Barack Obama made clear in his State of the Union address, it is time to focus on restoring opportunity for all. That means helping to make sure more Americans can take part in our growing economy and build some economic security for the long term. To get that done, we are putting forward real, concrete solutions to our most pressing problems—from college affordability and job training to fair wages and a stable retirement.

Now, when it comes to retirement, you would think that the vast majority of working Americans would be putting some money away for their future. But the truth is, many are not. For millions of working men and women, it is not easy to save for the long haul. Many employers do not offer a retirement plan. And setting up a retirement account and maintaining it can often be too difficult, expensive and time-consuming.

The statistics paint a stark picture. Only about half of all workers have access to an employer-based retirement plan, such as a 401(k). And left on their own, few workers save. It is estimated that fewer than one out of 10 eligible workers actually contribute to an IRA.

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



personal satisfaction?

The term is hardly used today and it is likely on its way out to irrelevant land and subsequent death. But with the aura of arrogant indispensability among the “do-nothings” upstairs, this could be the perfect time to revive it one last time. *Puñeteru!*

Neglifluenza: Pre-Nov. ’14 parade

There was smooth jazz bouncing off in the background. Hoping to secure some semblance of sanity by relaxing with easy rhythm and arpeggios by virtuosos in strings and wind instruments.

Then came West Montgomery’s rendition of *Canadian Sunset* that sent me down memory lane of yester-years. I was stuck there as faces and places paraded in and out of my mind.

The tune is fitting as old and new political warriors appear in the horizon smiling lamely. Some would have sad sailing into the sunset of their career while others would brave sailing into the break of dawn. It’s a give or take based on your performance in recent past.

It’s rough sailing for incumbents this time around. If you haven’t done anything of substance then you’d be a perfect candidate for your own illness: neglifuenza. By then you’d be standing shoulder to shoulder with the village folks revisiting the even playground downstairs once more.

Otherwise, it’s all faintest gusto to sport good grace as part of an exiting team. Why not, even empires crumble, *di ba?*

OBAMA

From Page 10

many presidents—Republican and Democrat—have stretched the interpretation of their powers to the limit, and sometimes beyond.

In that sense, President Obama is no different from past presidents. But in crucial ways, he has used and abused his powers in ways his predecessors could only fantasize about.

Unilaterally raising the federal minimum wage for government contractors may have Republicans in Congress pulling their hair out this week, but that’s among the least of this president’s usurpations of their lawmaking authority.

Committing American airpower in 2011 to help overthrow Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi without so much as consulting Congress was a milestone in presidential overreach. Obama called it “leading from behind.” In the aftermath, four U.S. State Department employees were killed in Benghazi on September 11, 2012, and Libya is splitting along old tribal lines and descending further into chaos.

Obama decided in 2012 that Congress wasn’t doing enough to reform U.S. immigration laws. So he signed an executive order barring the Immigration and Customs Enforcement service from deporting minors and relatives of U.S. service members living in the United States illegally.

The president’s justification was at least somewhat plausible: “prosecutorial discretion” gives him some leeway on enforcement. But immigration enforcement officers complain, with justice, that Obama’s orders have effectively tied their hands.

But when the president decided to delay his health care law’s “employer mandate,” he engaged in nothing less than wholesale lawlessness. The reason for the delay boils down to cynical political calculation: forcing employers with more than 50 workers to provide health insurance ahead of the 2014 midterm elections would likely disrupt the economy and be bad for Democrats. Nothing more to it than that.

Congress has for too long delegated far too much of its power to the executive branch. It’s past time the legislative branch used its authority to hold this president to account, starting with enforcing his ill-conceived health care reform law.

Ben Boychuk (bboychuk@city-journal.org) is associate editor of the Manhattan Institute’s City Journal. Joel Mathis (joelmmathis@gmail.com) is associate editor for Philadelphia Magazine. They wrote this for McClatchy-Tribune.

Still, every American deserves the chance to build a secure retirement. That is why the Obama administration has designed a new way for working Americans to start saving for the future.

This program, which will begin later this year, is called myRA or My Retirement Account. This account is designed to help low- and middle-income workers, who are too often overlooked or ignored, begin saving for retirement. We are talking about the waitress who is holding down two part-time jobs to support her kids; the recent graduate who landed a job but is grappling with student loans; the janitor who has never been given the chance to invest in a retirement account.

Here is how myRA, which is simple, safe and affordable, will work.

You will be able to start saving with an initial deposit of as little as \$25 and contribute as little as \$5 each payday. If an employer chooses to participate, contributions are made through automatic payroll deductions, making them hassle-free.

There are no fees—100 percent of any contribution goes into the account and is invested in a Treasury security. That means it will be backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, will earn the same interest rate that is available to federal employees for their retirement savings, and the balance will never go down.

Finally, myRA is not tied to any one employer—it belongs to the worker, not the workplace.

In other words, the account is portable and can be easily rolled into a Roth IRA. And if myRA savers ever need to, they can withdraw their contributions tax-free, at any time.

MyRA is a specific way in which we can help hardworking Americans save for the future. But there are other things we can do. In particular, the president has consistently called on Congress to help tens of millions of middle class Americans save for the future by opening up access to automatic IRAs in the workplace.






And we will continue to look for ways to help increase economic security, strengthen the middle class, and provide more ladders of opportunity into the middle class. That is how we will help make sure every American can take part in this recovery. And that is how we will help usher in a stronger, more prosperous future for our country.

Jacob J. Lew is secretary of the Treasury. He wrote this for McClatchy-Tribune.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼78
Palau	Showers	▲84 ▼75
Yap	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲85 ▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼80

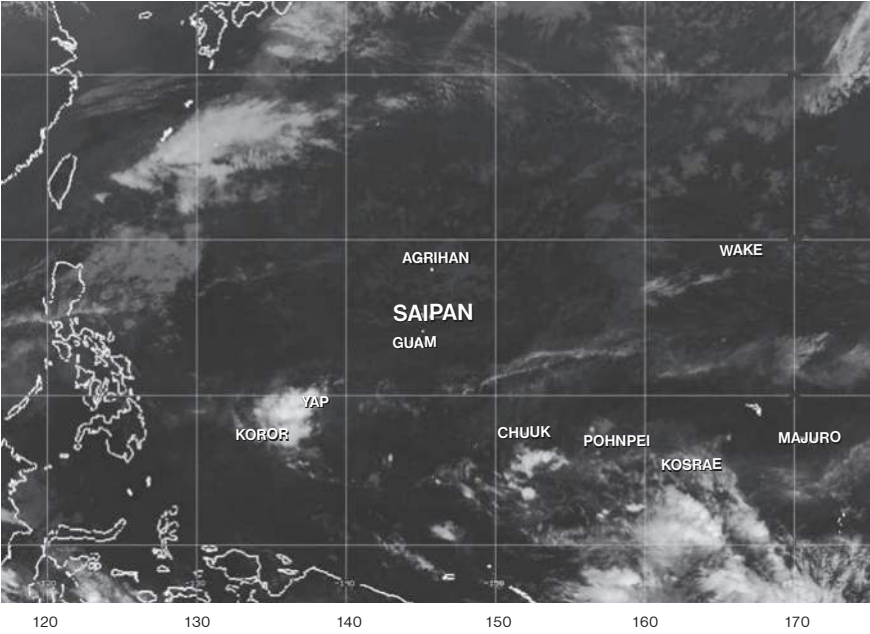
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲40 ▼18
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲76 ▼64
Honolulu	Showers	▲80 ▼67
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲47 ▼38
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲16 ▼6
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲90 ▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲96 ▼57
Miami	Sunny	▲79 ▼71
New York	Cloudy	▲48 ▼29
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲57 ▼40
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲46 ▼38
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲50 ▼22
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲54 ▼41
Salem	Sunny	▲46 ▼29
San Francisco	Showers	▲53 ▼44
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲28 ▼11
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲64 ▼40
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲53 ▼32

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:04 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:26 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
4:47 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
10:14 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line curves west-southwestward from 20N165E to near Saipan at 15N145E then heads west-northwestward to beyond 130E at 17N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 300 miles north of this boundary. Another shear line extends westward from 13N180 to 13N161E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 200 miles north of this boundary. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Koror and near Yap within 150 miles of a line from 9N139E to 5N142E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae south of a line from 7N152E to 1N168E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Wednesday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:18 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:07 AM	9:37 PM
Tuesday	9:53 AM	10:33 PM
Wednesday	10:38 AM	11:27 PM
Thursday	11:23 AM	
Friday	12:09 PM	12:20 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
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 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN) D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN D2885 4:45pm 12:20am+1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN D2881 10:00pm 5:15am+1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH) D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN D2883 5:15pm 12:20am+1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Over 300 attend Lunar New Year Party at Fiesta

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Lunar New Year Countdown at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan was a thundering success, with over 300 tourists and a smattering of island residents greeting the Year of the Wooden Horse at the stroke of midnight on Friday, Jan. 31.

Century Tours marketing manager Ed Arriola said he and other organizers were very pleased with the more-than-expected turnout.

"Tourists expressed how wonderful it was to celebrate their most important holiday while here so many thousands of miles from home. It's kind of like us visiting their country on Dec. 25 and being able to enjoy a Christmas dinner with a tree. This party was Century Tours' way of saying 'so many of you traveled so far from home, but yet you're appreciated and comfortable.'"

Arriola added that the Lunar New Year Countdown was such a great experience that many tourists volunteered to invite their friends back home to also come and visit Saipan.

"That's one important aspect of what tourism should be, making our guests comfortable and giving them a sense of security and familiarity. Many exclaimed how they want to bring more friends and family members to Saipan later this August and again in January 2015."

After last year's low-key Lunar New Year celebration, Century Tours decided to shake things up a bit this year.

"Last year we had a small more intimate event at Fiesta for our Chinese guests. This year our company CEO and president Willie and Jerry Tan spoke



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan general manager Abner Acosta, second from left, and F&B director Das Krishnan, third from right, pose with other hotel staff during last Thursday's Lunar New Year Countdown Party at the Garapan landmark.



Chinese tourists use their cell phones to take a photo of Fiesta Resort's projector screen that shows the start of Lunar Year 2014.

to Alex Stutely [Century Tours vice president] and wanted our team to do something that our guests deserved. This called for more seats, more lights, more fireworks, and more entertainment; the party last Thursday was a true representation and display of how the Chinese celebrate their New Year; it was big, bold, and festive!"

Arriola also applauded the hard work of Century Tours staff as well as Fiesta Resort employees for making the event a success.

Fiesta Resort & Spa F&B director Das Krishnan confirmed that 300 tourists aboard two Dynamic Airways flights attended the countdown party. Some 20 local residents and some Russian tourists also attended the event.

He said they prepared an island-style barbecue buffet for

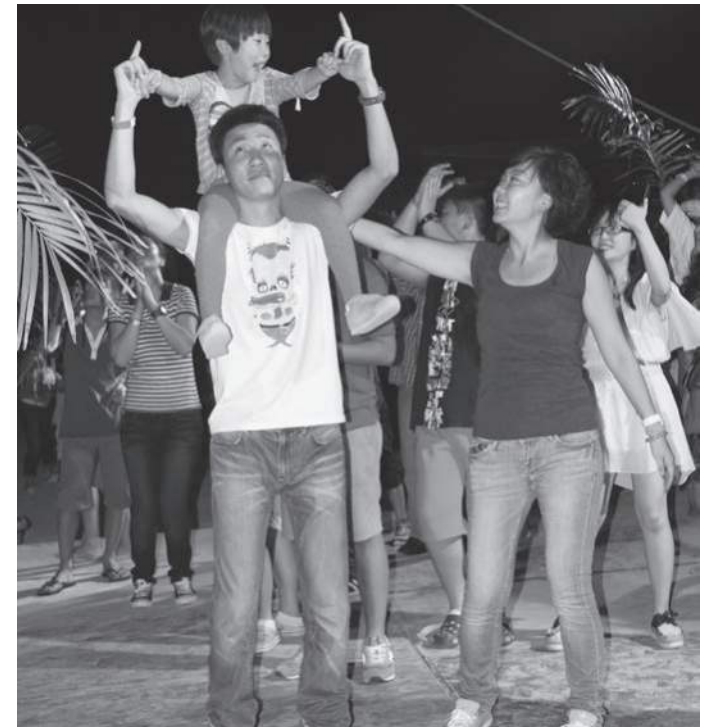
the party that started at 7pm on Thursday night, Jan. 30. The buffet spread included lobster, roast pig, and a noodle station.

Violinist David Chen, island reggae musical group Tasi & Aliis, and Polynesian dancers helped entertain the guests. A Zumba and kung fu demonstrations were also part of the program.

As the seconds of the Year of the Water Snake wound down, Fiesta Resort staff lit \$3,000 worth of fireworks and the evening sky above Garapan exploded in bright luminescent hues.

Arriola said Century Tours is already looking forward to hosting a bigger and better Lunar New Year countdown in 2015 as well as planning for the Mid-Autumn Festival later in 2014.

"We plan to do this again next year, but on a larger scale," he said.



A young family has fun while welcoming the Year of the Wooden Horse at the Fiesta Resort South Beach during the Lunar New Year Countdown Party.



Over 300 tourists attended Thursday night and Friday morning's Lunar New Year Countdown Party at Fiesta Resort.

FULFILLING THE DREAM:

‘Night with the Knights’ a grand success



THOMAS A. MANGLONA

Members of the Mount Carmel School Class of 1991 have their picture taken at the “Night with the Knights” celebration at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Hibiscus Hall last Saturday.

By THOMAS A. MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Dozens of alumni—called “AlumKnights”—and current Mount Carmel School students gathered at the “Night with the Knights” celebration at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Hibiscus Hall last Saturday to celebrate over six decades of faith, excellence, and success. The night also served as a tribute to the school’s founders, Fr. Arnold Bendowski and the Mercedarian sisters.

School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero said that current

students and graduates continue to serve as a true example of the legacy and success that Bendowski and the founders envisioned.

“As AlumKnights many of you have studied at some of the most prestigious colleges and organizations. Many of you have returned to your island to give back. You prove that Mount Carmel is more than just a bunch of classrooms, textbooks, and curriculum. You prove that MCS is truly a legacy of faith, excellence, and success,” he said. “I salute you all for fulfilling

the dream for Mount Carmel School.”

Guerrero also enumerated the current progress the school is making. He said that after a 10-year enrollment decline the school has increased the enrollment by a third. The school also adopted and implemented more vigorous standards for student achievement, and its students continue to excel with higher scores on standardized tests and show impressive achievements in extracurricular activities.

“The knights of today are your legacy by continuing the

school tradition of faith, excellence, and success,” he added.

Mercedarian Sister Martha Ramarul said it was “fun and good to see old faces and wonderful to see so much appreciation for our school.”

Ramarul said the many successful government, business, and community leaders who have graduated from Mount Carmel over the past decades “is something priceless” for an educator like herself to see.

The event also featured presentations and a special dance number from the school’s Theatre Club.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan was also bestowed the AlumKnight of the Year award, making him the school’s first non-graduate to be presented with the prestigious award. *See sidebar.*

Students and graduates from different years, including the class of 1964, spent the night sharing their memorable experiences and pictures of their high school years.

Current MCS sophomore Jonathan Pangelinan shared that it was interesting for him to see dozens of graduates together under one roof. “At-

tending the event made me cherish the meaning of what it is to be a Knight,” he said.

Delegate Sablan also presented a special proclamation recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of Mount Carmel School on Saipan and Eskuelen San Francisco de Borja on Rota—the only two Catholic institutions in the CNMI.

One recent MCS graduate said the event was a time to “look back at our glory days and look forward to see what we as a community can do for our students today.”

Kilili is MCS’ AlumKnight of the Year



THOMAS A. MANGLONA

Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, and MCS board chair Joe Tajeron pose for a photo after the awarding of MCS’ 2014 AlumKnight of the Year award.

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan was presented Saturday with Mount Carmel School’s “AlumKnight of the

Year” award.

In his acceptance speech, Sablan dedicated the award to the founders of the school, the Mercedarian sisters, and Bishop Emeritus Tomas A. Camacho who he said, “served

as my counselor and someone who has given me advice for many of the things I have done.”

“Many of us started life here [at MCS] and our education and the building of our charac-

ter,” he said. “Thank you for this recognition. I know there are many others that deserve this as much as I do, but I will accept it.”

Sablan is the school’s first non-graduate to be recognized

with this prestigious award. According to school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, the school decided to revise the award this year to include AlumKnights who spent at least four consecutive years at the school.

Sablan went to MCS from 1st grade to 5th grade before moving to Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia to attend Xavier High School. He then returned to Saipan to graduate from Marianas High School and later proceeded to study at the University of Guam and eventually Berkeley.

According to Guerrero, this year’s recipient served in the administration of the Marianas’ first governor, Carlos S. Camacho, and soon after was elected to the 3rd Commonwealth Legislature. During his legislative term, he was appointed as a special representative to 702 talks for the CNMI, in which he and his colleagues successfully negotiated millions of dollars in federal assistance for the Commonwealth.

After two legislative terms, this year’s awardee moved to Washington, D.C. as an appointed special assistant to U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye. He would later return to Saipan

and serve two subsequent gubernatorial administrations, those of Froilan C. Tenorio and Pedro P. Tenorio, before being appointed executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission, a position he held until resigning to run for the first ever CNMI delegate to the US. Congress.

He was then successfully re-elected for two more terms, the most recent of which saw him win the largest electoral victory in CNMI history.

“But rather than let this power get to his head, he has used his political capital to bring in millions of dollars in federal funding, prioritizing education like no other, and serving as the moral compass of the community,” Guerrero said.

“One of the most respected leaders in our community, this year’s awardee is a man of character, integrity, and, above all, love for the people of the Northern Mariana,” Guerrero said. “I have personally followed this year’s awardee on a number of occasions and am overwhelmed and humbled by how much he cares for everyone in our community. He is someone I deeply admire and I can only hope, one day, to be as good as man as he is.”



MCS board of directors

PHOTOS BY THOMAS A. MANGLONA



MCS AlumKnights with their spouses at the Fiesta Resort and Spa.



MCS AlumKnights Will Hunter, Barbara Hunter, Edwin Propst and his wife Daisy pose for a photo during the "Night with the Knights" event.



The school's founders, the Mercedarian Sisters.



MCS alumna Dr. Norma Ada and her family pose for a photo.



Delegate Kilili Sablan and Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

Three named as MCS' Parents of the Year



Mount Carmel School officials and Parents of the Year Luis Camacho and Shevon Santos pose for a photo at the school's Family Fun Night. Not in photo is Ed Propst.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

For the first time in its Catholic Schools Week celebration, Mount Carmel recognized three parents who have generously given their time and commitment to the school.

"These individuals are necessary to achieving the school's mission in educating every child to see with Christ's

eye," said MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

Shevon Reyes, Luis Iglesias Camacho, and Edwin K. Propst received the award last Friday night at the school's Family Night.

Reyes, 1997 MCS AlumKnight, is wife and mother of two. Reyes volunteers at the school's library, which "takes off an added responsibility to the teachers."

Because of Reyes, the library is now open daily for students and teachers to obtain integral learning and reading resources.

"I was so shocked and this was unexpected," Reyes told the *Saipan Tribune*. "I do not volunteer to be recognized, because I just want to be in the background. However, I am very happy."

Camacho, the father of two current MCS students and two

proud AlumKnights, said that in order for any parent to succeed with their entire family, they must be involved in their children's 'education.

School officials shared that because of Camacho's work at the school they saved money and redirected finances to other important programs the school runs.

Camacho recognized that other parents can do the work

he does but simply do not have the time.

"I thank Mount Carmel for giving me the opportunity to be a part of their family. I value Catholic education and it is one of the few things I never had in life. The Lord gave me an extra blessing to send my kids here."

His daughter, Louisa, said, "I am happy for my dad. He works very hard every day, even when

he is sick. I am proud."

PTO president and community crusader Edwin Propst was the third recipient of the award.

"I am very thankful and honored to receive this recognition, but I feel the real Parents of the Year are our PTO officers, representatives, and members who are as generous as they are hard-working," Propst said. "At Mt. Carmel, we are more than just a team...we are a family."



School staff Francis San Nicolas, Filmah BuneFlor, and Tobed Smith at the Night with the Knights event last Saturday.



Bank of Guam representatives



Diocese of Chalan Kanoa officials



Class of 1990

USDA invests over \$17.2M in Western Pacific in FY 2013

TIYAN, Guam—In fiscal year 2013, USDA Rural Development invested over \$17.2 million in various projects across the Western Pacific. These funds were targeted toward first-time home ownership, home repair/rehabilitation, community facilities, business assistance and investments in renewable energy

and energy efficiency.

The Western Pacific includes Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Rural Development's investment includes over \$12.1 mil-

lion in housing that help to assist 76 very-low to moderate-income families become first-time homeowners; assistance; over \$3.1 million in assistance to businesses; \$548,337 in renewable energy and energy efficiency grants to small businesses; and over \$1.0 million in a grant for a high

energy cost area.

"These funds demonstrate the Obama administration's unyielding efforts to improve the quality of life for rural residents by ensuring that rural communities benefit from quality public facilities such as hospitals, courthouses, and health centers," said Chris Kanaza-

wa, state director for Hawaii, American Samoa and the Western Pacific. "Supporting local economies in the Western Pacific is one of the many ways the Obama administration and USDA are working to rebuild and revitalize rural America."

These investments were made available through Rural Development's Single Family Housing Direct and Guaranteed Loan Programs; the Rural Housing 504 Home Repair and Rehabilitation Loan and Grant Program; the Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan Program; the Rural Energy for America Program; and other grant programs including the Rural Business Enterprise Grant; Value-Added Producer Grant; High Energy Cost Grant; and the Housing Preservation Grant program.

"Rural Development will

continue that mission for the Western Pacific in fiscal year 2014, creating economic opportunity and improving the quality of life for rural residents—one homeowner, one small business, one rural community at a time," said Joseph Diego, Area II director.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages housing, business and community infrastructure programs through a national network of state and local offices. Rural Development has an active portfolio of more than \$172 billion in loans and loan guarantees. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. **(USDA)**

Nominations being accepted for 2014 Businesswoman of the Year

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* are seeking nominations for the 9th annual Businesswoman of the Year *Maga'Haga* award. Nominees must be residents of Guam or the Northern Mariana Islands.

Nominees should meet the following criteria: a businesswoman who has made a significant difference in her industry through her organization or her business, a woman who has contributed to her community, a woman who is a leading representative of her profession or field, a woman who displays the best qualities of one in business.

The deadline for nominations is Feb. 28. The winner will be announced at the Busi-

nesswoman of the Year Gala on April 26.

The gala is also a fundraiser for the Businesswoman of the Year scholarship program. The scholarships, open to both full-time and part-time college students, are intended to promote higher education by providing financial assistance to college students pursuing professional careers in business or a related field who are enrolled at the University of Guam, Guam Community College, or Northern Marianas College.

The 2013 Businesswoman of the Year *Maga'Haga* award recipient was F. Marie Calvo-Monge, chief operating officer and executive producer of Pacific Telestations Inc., which operates the sta-

tions of KUAM. Past recipients include Mary P. Rhodes, president of the Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association and president of MARQ Consulting Services; Joyce Quinata Crisostomo, executive director of Cars Plus and president of Payless Car Rental; Anna Wang Kao, founder and president of Genghis Khan Furniture Co.; Lorraine S. Okada, executive manager of Carlsmith Ball LLP and president and owner of Managing Consulting Services; Julianne Rose Perez Duenas, physical therapist, owner and clinical director of Sports, Orthopedic and Active Rehabilitation Inc.; Christine Won Pat Baleto, general manager of Market Wholesale Distributors; and Katherine Calvo Sgro, executive vice president

and chairwoman of the board for Pay-Less Markets Inc.

For more information or to submit a nomination, contact Jacqueline Guzman, assistant editor, *Guam Business Magazine* at (671) 649-0883 Ext. 125 or assist_editor@glimpsesof-guam.com or Lou Sanchez, sales and marketing manager, First Hawaiian Bank at (671) 475-7853 or lsanchez@fhhb.com. **(PR)**

2014 Pusong Pinoy still looking for sponsors

The United Filipino Organization is looking to the local business community anew for sponsorship of cash prizes for the 2014 Little Miss *Pusong Pinoy* as well as in-kind raffle prizes for the *Pusong Pinoy* festivities on Feb. 16.

"With almost two weeks left for the preparations we're still looking for donors that can help us with cash prizes and [in-kind prizes] for the raffle," said UFO president Annamae Adaza.

While the 2014 *Pusong Pinoy* main event has Docomo Pacific and LBC Mabuhay as its main sponsors, Daza said they still have a long way to go as far as sponsorship for the prizes are concerned.

"It's the third year of celebrating the *Pusong Pinoy* event and we are so lucky

that Docomo Pacific is still our major sponsor and in cooperation with LBC Mabuhay again. Our 20 lovely candidates will be vying for the title of Little Miss *Pusong Pinoy* 2014. We're currently having three-times-a-week rehearsal at the Saipan Music & Dance studio in Garapan."

The 20 candidates will compete for eight special awards: Miss Photogenic, Miss Friendship, Darling of the Crowd, Star of the Night, LBC's Best in Smile, Docomo's Spirit Award, Best in Talent, and Best in Evening Gown.

The grand prize winner will receive \$800; first runner-up, \$500; second runner-up, \$300; third runner-up, \$100; and fourth runner-up, \$100.

Non-winners will be presented with consolation cash

prizes, certificates of participation, and gift packs from Natasha Service Center.

Adaza is inviting not only the Filipino community on Saipan but the entire community to join them on Feb. 16 and take part in the 2014 *Pusong Pinoy* festivities.

"The event posters are already out and hopefully a lot of people will join us for our event with \$1 entrance fee, which entitles them to a raffle ticket with great prizes."

Those wishing to donate cash prizes for the 2014 Little Miss *Pusong Pinoy* and in-kind raffle prizes for the *Pusong Pinoy* festivities may call Adaza at 483-5237, Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, event director Ernie Molina at 789-8212, or Ester Sablan at 789-5553. **(Mark Rabago)**

Saipan CBP assists crewmembers of sinking vessel

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Saipan International Airport arrived dockside at the seaport to assist the 24 crewmembers who were rescued from their cargo vessel when it began to take on water.

On Jan. 20 the cargo vessel *Rich Forest* began taking on water when it was approximately 420 nautical miles west of Guam. The U.S. Coast Guard responded and rescued the vessel's crewmembers as they began to abandon ship on Jan. 22.

On Jan. 24 the crewmembers arrived on Saipan and were met by CBP officers, agents from Homeland Security Investigations, and members of the U.S. Coast Guard. All crewmembers were in good health and no injuries were reported.

CBP granted each crewmember with a humanitarian parole allowing them to remain on Saipan until their travel arrangements could be finalized. CBP officers on Saipan also assisted with arranging transportation

of the crewmembers to a local hotel where they could rest and await their flight home.

"CBP's ability to work in tandem with different agencies and respond to emergency situations plays an important role in ensuring that help is available during these types of events," said Rene Masculino, CBP's port director of the Saipan port of entry.

All crewmembers were able to depart Saipan and fly home on Sunday, Jan. 26. **(USCBP)**



CAR SERVICE GIVEAWAY

To conclude the yearlong promotion, Car Service Giveaway, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. underwriter Janel Pangelinan, right, presents a gift certificate for car service at Joeten Motors to their December 2013 winner, Valerie Ann Hofschneider, left. Hofschneider was one of 13 winners of the Pacifica Car Service Giveaway promotion held throughout 2013. Like other winners of the Giveaway, Hofschneider will be entitled to a free oil change, tire pressure adjustment, fluid levels check, lube hinges service, weather solvent, engine treatment, and a multi-point inspection at Joeten Motors valued at \$70. Only policyholders of Pacifica were entered to win in this Giveaway. For information about Pacifica Insurance call 234-6267/7722/7310 or visit www.pacificains.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bordallo discusses Asia-Pacific rebalance at hearing

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) raised yesterday the importance of the Marine realignment from Okinawa to Guam during a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee.

Bordallo highlighted the need to build on the progress of the fiscal year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act, which loosened restrictions on utilizing government of Japan funds for the realignment and authorized nearly \$500 million in military construction for Guam. The congresswoman also raised the importance of U.S. engagement in helping to resolve the current diplomatic situation between South Korea and Japan. She stressed the importance of this multilateral engagement to ensure safety, peace and security in the East Asia region.

Testifying before the Committee were Frank Kendall, Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics; Michael D. Lumpkin, acting undersecretary of Defense for Policy; and Vice Adm. Frank Pandolfe, director

for Strategic Plans and Policy.

"The 2014 National Defense Authorization Act made significant progress on the Marine realignment that I hope to build on in the coming year," said Bordallo. "I appreciate that the [Obama] administration continues to emphasize the need to move forward with the realignment and demonstrate to our allies our commitment to maintaining a strong presence in the Asia-Pacific region. The Marine realignment to Guam is a critical component of the rebalance strategy, and forward progress on this initiative is tangible evidence to our allies that we are serious about this strategic initiative. I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress and with the administration to build on the progress we have made and ensure that the realignment is positive for our island, nation, and the region. I also urged witnesses to ensure that the U.S. government engages diplomatically to help our allies Japan and South Korea as they deal with many challenges in the region." **(PR)**

Business

10 Super Bowl ads to watch out for



This undated frame grab provided by SodaStream, shows the company's 2014 Super Bowl commercial. SodaStream's ad features "Her" actress Scarlett Johansson promoting its at-home soda maker and will run in the fourth quarter.

NEW YORK (AP)—Actress Scarlett Johansson gives SodaStream some sex appeal in a controversial spot. Kia revives actor Laurence Fishburne's "Matrix" character Morpheus in its commercial. And cute puppies and kids abound in ads for Cheerios to Anheuser-Busch.

Advertisers are planning to pull out the tools in their arsenal during Super Bowl time this Sunday, including celebrities, A-list rock bands and cinematic story lines.

Of course, there will still be ad surprises on Sunday with major brands like Chrysler and Coca-Cola staying mum on at least one of their ads. But the ones that are already out use a variety of tactics to draw viewers' attention.

Overall, marketers are doing a better job getting their branding message across—while still entertaining—than previous years when a cheap joke or gag ruled supreme, says Kelly O'Keefe, professor of brand strategy at the Virginia Commonwealth University Brand Center.

"This year there's much more focus on brand personality: the spot has to be both interesting and funny and link back to the core assets of the brand," he said. "I'm predicting a stronger Super Bowl than last year."

Advertisers are in the game to win. The Super Bowl is advertising's biggest showcase, with more than 108 million people expected to tune into the game. And companies are paying an estimated \$4 million to have their ads be a part of the action.

Here are 10 ads to watch for on Sunday:

1. ANHEUSER-BUSCH: The biggest Super Bowl advertiser's ad in the fourth quarter shows an adorable Golden Labrador becoming enamored with one of the beer maker's iconic Clydesdales to the tune of "Let Her Go" by Passenger.

Online: <http://youtu.be/uQB7QRyF4p4>

2. GENERAL MILL'S CHEERIOS: The cereal maker brings back an interracial family that starred in a prior spot. This one shows a father telling his daughter that they're going to have an addition to the family, a baby boy. Then, the little girl strongly suggests they also get a puppy. The ad airs during the first unscheduled time-out of the game.

Online: <http://youtu.be/LKuQrKeGe6g>

3. BANK OF AMERICA: The bank will promote its partnership with AIDS nonprofit (RED) by having music group U2 sing their new single "Invisible" between the first and second quarter. The song will be a free download on iTunes during the game and for the following 24 hours. Bank of America will donate \$1 each time it is downloaded to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS.

4. SODASTREAM: The Israeli at-home soda maker company has stirred up controversy on two fronts. Their ad features "Her" actress Scarlett Johansson touting the health and environmental benefits of the soda maker and will run in the fourth quarter. The ad first made waves when the company said it would delete its last line, "Sorry, Coke and Pepsi," at a request by Fox. Then on Thursday, Johansson resigned her Oxfam ambassadorship. The nonprofit was unhappy she was linked with SodaStream, which operates in Israeli settlements in the West Bank of Palestine. Oxfam is opposed to that.

Online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?vzxq4ziuwrl>

5. H&M: The clothing maker's ad in the second quarter features nifty technology that will allow people with some Samsung Smart TVs to order soccer star David Beckham's

Bodywear products with their remote control in real time.

Online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?vLHxCELegDz4>

6. NESTLE'S BUTTERFINGER: A suggestive teaser ad showed a couple, "Chocolate" and "Peanut Butter," in '70s-style couple's therapy talking about the need for "change" and "excitement." The actual ad in the third quarter will have a related theme and Butterfinger is expected to introduce its Peanut Butter Cups with some tongue-in-cheek double entendres.

Online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?vu1ZCl-NkQuU>

7. BEATS MUSIC: Ellen DeGeneres reimagines the Goldilocks and The Three Bears fairytale in this ad running in the third quarter that introduces Beats Music, a streaming music service.

Online: <http://youtu.be/jJ-R6YV4WAnM>

8. WONDERFUL PISTACHIOS: The snack producer showcases comedian Stephen Colbert running amok in two 15-second ads in the second quarter.

Online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?vOKAG7UJ-NWk>

9. KIA: In the carmaker's third-quarter ad to introduce its K900 luxury sedan, Laurence Fishburne reprises his "Matrix" role as Morpheus and displays some surprising operatic skills.

Online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?vOb-wn52Dkmk>

10. CHRYSLER: The automaker is bound to surprise. Always mum ahead of the game, Chrysler has produced some of the best loved and most remembered spots during the big game, from Eminem's "Imported from Detroit" ad in 2011 to last year's "Farmer" ad featuring scenes of American farmland and a voiceover by conservative radio broadcaster Paul Harvey. Look for another surprising spot or two this year.

Nation

IN AN ELECTION YEAR

GOP wary of immigration issue

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's new declaration that he's open to legal status for many immigrants short of citizenship sounds a lot like House Speaker John Boehner and other GOP leaders, an election-year compromise that numerous Republicans as well as Democrats crave.

But the drive for the first overhaul in three decades still faces major resistance from many Republicans who are wary that the divisive issue



Obama

could derail what they see as a smooth glide path to winning November's congressional elections. And they deeply distrust the Democratic president to enforce the law.

Just hours after Boehner pitched immigration to the GOP at a Maryland retreat, Obama suddenly indicated he would be open to legal status for many of the 11 million living here illegally, dropping his once-ironclad insistence on a special path to citizenship.

Democrats, including Obama, and other immigration proponents have warned repeatedly about the creation of a two-tier class system.

"If the speaker proposes something that says right away, folks aren't being de-

ported, families aren't being separated, we're able to attract top young students to provide the skills or start businesses here, and then there's a regular process of citizenship, I'm not sure how wide the divide ends up being," Obama said in a CNN interview that was recorded Thursday and aired Friday.

Obama's flexibility is a clear indication of the president's desire to secure an elusive legislative achievement

before voters decide whether to hand him even more opposition in Congress. Republicans are expected to maintain their grip on the House and have a legitimate shot at grabbing the majority in the Senate.

"I'm going to do everything I can in the coming months to see if we can get this over the finish line," Obama said Friday of an immigration overhaul in a Google Plus Hangout talk.

In an earlier compromise, Obama signaled late last year that he could accept the House's piecemeal, bill-by-bill approach to immigration changes after months of backing a comprehensive, bipartisan Senate bill. Notably, he calibrated his comments on immigration in his State of the

Union address this week.

"I think he realizes that this is a very delicate issue, it's very controversial and I think his recent statements have been very, very positive in allowing us to move forward," Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, R-Fla., a proponent of immigration overhaul, told reporters Friday.

Boehner, for his part, tried to sell his reluctant broader caucus on tackling immigration this year by casting it as critical to job creation, economic growth and national security. The speaker, along with Reps. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Jeff Denham, R-Calif., argued for action in a closed-door session with other House Republicans Thursday at their annual retreat in Cambridge, Md.

Boehner rejected the idea of a special path to citizenship.

"If Democrats insist on that, then we are not going to get anywhere this year," he said.

The House leaders' "standards for immigration reform" call for increased border security, better law enforcement within the U.S., a pathway to legal status but not citizenship for millions of adults who live in America unlawfully—after they pay back taxes and fines—and a chance for legal residence and citizenship for children brought to the country illegally.

Differing perspectives fuel debate over Knox case

SEATTLE (AP)—To some Americans, especially those in her hometown of Seattle, Amanda Knox seems a victim, unfairly hounded by a capricious legal system in Italy that convicted her this week in the death of a 21-year-old British woman.

But in Europe, some see her as a privileged American who is getting away with murder, embroiled in a case



Knox

that continues to make global headlines and reinforces a negative image of U.S. citizens behaving badly—even criminally—abroad without any punishment.

As she remains free in the U.S., the perceptions will likely fuel not only the debate about who killed Meredith Kercher in 2007 and what role, if any, Knox played in her death, but complicate how the U.S. and Italian governments resolve whether she should be sent to Italy to face prison.

"It's been a polarizing case, and that polarization will re-

main," said Anne Bremner, a Seattle attorney and Knox supporter.

The divergent views on who killed Kercher are rooted not just in the typical dynamics of a legal case in which the two sides hold opposing narratives, but also in the differences between the justice systems in the U.S. and Italy, and examples of Americans avoiding Italian justice.

After being first convicted and then acquitted, Knox and her one-time boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito, were convicted again Thursday, following their third trial. Knox was sentenced to 28 1/2 years, Sollecito to 25 years. The court's reasoning isn't expected to be released for three months.

The tone of some British newspaper coverage reflected skepticism about Knox's protestations of innocence. "Shameless in Seattle" was the front-page headline on Saturday's Daily Mail, which

referred to Knox's "brazen TV charm offensive to escape extradition."

Any decision on whether to return Knox to Italy will ultimately be made by the U.S. State Department.

There have been other high-profile cases in which Italians hoped in vain to have Americans face justice there, notably the case of a U.S. Marine jet that sliced a gondola cable in the Italian Alps in 1998, killing 20 people.

Under NATO rules, the U.S. military retained jurisdiction, and the pilot was acquitted of manslaughter.

More recently, in 2009 Italian courts convicted—in absentia—26 CIA and U.S. government employees in the kidnapping of an Egyptian cleric suspected of recruiting terrorists in Milan.

Some lawyers familiar with the process say Knox has little hope of avoiding extradition under the terms of the U.S.-Italy treaty, but that won't stop her supporters from mounting a campaign to keep her in the U.S.

Asia

Tense Thai elections go ahead

BANGKOK (AP)—Protesters trying to derail Thailand's national elections forced the closure of hundreds of polling stations in a highly contentious vote that has become the latest flashpoint in the country's deepening political crisis.

Around the country, the vast majority of voting stations were open and polling proceeded relatively peacefully, but the risk of violence remained high a day after gun battles in Bangkok left seven people wounded.

The national focus was riveted to the capital where 488 of the capital's 6,600 polling stations were shut and several skirmishes broke out between protesters intent on disrupting the vote and frustrated would-be voters.

In some cases, protesters formed blockades to prevent

voters from entering polling stations. Elsewhere, protesters blocked the delivery of ballots and other election materials, preventing voting stations from opening. The Election Commission said that hundreds of polling stations in the south, an opposition stronghold, faced similar problems.

Whatever happens in Sunday's vote, the outcome will almost certainly be inconclusive. Because protesters blocked candidate registration in some districts, parliament will not have enough members to convene. That means beleaguered Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra will be unable to form a government or even pass a budget, and Thailand will be stuck in political limbo for months as by-elections are run in constituen-

cies that were unable to vote.

Fears of violence were high after an hour-long gun fight Saturday erupted at a busy Bangkok intersection between government supporters and protesters trying to block delivery of ballots. Among the injured was reporter for the local Daily News newspaper and American photojournalist, James Nachtwey, who was grazed by a bullet in the leg.

The exchange of fire was the latest flare-up in a monthslong campaign by protesters to overthrow Yingluck's government, which they accuse of corruption. The violence crystallized the power struggle that has devolved into a battle of wills between the government and protesters—and those caught between who insist on their right to vote.

Suspected Filipino rebels set off bomb; 12 wounded



AP

Philippine troops rush a victim injured in a bombing to a military hospital after being airlifted from the site of an improvised explosive device explosion Saturday, Feb. 1, 2014 at Datu Saudi Ampatuan township, Maguindanao province in southern Philippines.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A homemade bomb that was likely set off by Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines on Saturday wounded 12 people, including six soldiers and two television journalists, the military said.

The blast happened near an area where government troops have been battling Muslim insurgents who broke away from a larger rebel group after it signed a peace deal with the government.

The victims, including two TV journalists, were hit by shrapnel in Maguindanao province's Datu Saudi Ampatuan township, but their injuries were not life-threatening, said regional military spokesman Col. Dickson Hermoso.

A reporter and a cameraman

for the local TV5 network were reporting near the site of an earlier explosion, which flattened the tires of a military armored vehicle. They were following soldiers in two other armored vehicles when a second bomb exploded about 45 minutes later, wounding the journalists, six soldiers, and four civilians.

The network said in a statement that the journalists will be flown back to the capital, Manila.

The explosions came three days after troops captured a rebel stronghold with bomb-making and training facilities. The bombs are typically fashioned from unexploded mortars and rocket-propelled grenades triggered remotely by cellphones.

"That is their signature based

on what we have recovered from their camp," Hermoso said. "They just set off bombs in civilian communities and it doesn't matter to them who gets hit, and this is an example."

Since Monday, at least 52 insurgents and one soldier have been killed in the fighting, he said.

The rebels belonging to the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement are fighting to establish an independent state and broke away from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has agreed to a deal granting them greater autonomy in the southern Philippines. The talks to end four decades of Muslim rebellion in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation's south were concluded last week in Malaysia.

World

Radical activists a wild card in ongoing Ukraine protests

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Kitted out in masks, helmets and protective gear on the arms and legs, radical activists are the wild card of the Ukraine protests now starting their third month, declaring they're ready to resume violence if the stalemate persists.

When the protests started in December, attracting not only tens of thousands of Ukrainians but a flurry of visits from Western officials, the gatherings' determined peacefulness was an integral part of their claim to legitimacy. But in mid-January, the image of placid but principled people changed sharply, to frightening scenes of protesters heaving stones and firebombs at police.

The violence was sparked by the radicals within the larger protest movement, angered by President Viktor Yanukovich's implementation of harsh anti-protest laws and increasingly impatient with the protesters' failure to achieve any of their demands. In a vivid demonstration of frustration, they sprayed opposition leader Vitali Klitschko, the towering former heavyweight boxing champion, with a fire extinguisher when he pleaded for clashes to stop.

An uneasy truce settled in days later after three protesters died, but with no government concessions apparently in the works, the radicals say they're preparing to fight again.

"We are ready for a national mobilization and complete blockade of the government quarter. The time for chatter has passed," the leader of the radical group Pravy Sektor (Right Sector), Dmitry Jarosh, told The Associated Press.

Leaders of Ukraine's protests

Main leaders of mass protests in Ukraine, which began in November 2013 when Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich rejected a deal with the EU in favor of stronger ties with Russia:

Democratic Alliance for Reforms (Udar) leader Vitali Klitschko



Former heavyweight boxing champion and opposition leader; has been a vocal critic of Yanukovich, accusing him of undermining ties with the EU; shown here speaking to protesters Dec. 13, 2013

Svoboda Party leader Oleh Tyahnybok



Leader of this far-right party, founded as the Social-Nationalist Party; expelled from parliament in 2004 for saying the country was controlled by a "Muscovite-Jewish mafia"; maintains the party is not anti-Semitic nor xenophobic, but some feel its participation in protests is divisive

Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko



Imprisoned in 2011 for alleged abuse of power but still leads the nation's second-largest party, Fatherland; supporters say she was jailed for helping to overturn Yanukovich's election as president in 2004; MPs have refused to let her leave the country for needed health care; shown here in 2010

Parliamentary leader of Fatherland Party Arseniy Yatsenyuk



An ally of Tymoshenko, he lost a bid for president in 2010; held previous government posts as foreign minister and deputy governor of the central bank; supports Klitschko is his bid for EU integration; seen here addressing protesters Jan. 25

Former Interior Minister Yuriy Lutsenko



A vocal opposition leader, he is affiliated with Fatherland; began his rise to power in the Socialist Party in the early 1990s; was prominent in Tymoshenko's government and, like her, was jailed for alleged abuse of power; pardoned under EU pressure in 2013; seen here in a courtroom detention cage, 2012

Source: BBC, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Pat Carr

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WORLD BRIEFS

UN says more than 733 Iraqis killed in January

BAGHDAD (AP)—The United Nations said Saturday that at least 733 Iraqis were killed during violence in January, even when leaving out casualties from an embattled western province. The figures issued Saturday by the U.N.'s mission to Iraq show 618 civilians and 115 members of the security forces were killed in January. But the UNAMI statement excluded deaths from ongoing fighting in Anbar, due to problems in verifying the "status of those killed." The figures also leave out insurgent deaths. Also, the U.N. said at least 1,229 Iraqis were wounded in attacks across the country last month. Baghdad was the worst affected province, with 297 killed and 585 wounded.

Car bomb kills at least 3 in Lebanese Shiite town

BEIRUT (AP)—A car bomb blew up Saturday near a gas station in a Shiite town in northeast Lebanon, killing at least three people, officials said. The bomb was the second to hit the town of Hermel, in the latest attack that appeared

linked to the war in neighboring Syria. Lebanon's Red Crescent said three were killed and another 18 wounded. The organization initially reported that four people were killed, but later revised the number downwards. Footage on al-Manar television, associated with the Shiite group Hezbollah, showed a bright orange blaze as black silhouettes of people ran by.

Al-Qaida fighters in Syria kill rival rebel leader

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian activists say al-Qaida fighters have killed the military leader of a rival Islamic brigade in a twin car bombing near the northern city of Aleppo, an attack likely to further exacerbate rebel infighting. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said late Saturday that the al-Qaida linked Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant killed 26 people in the Saturday attack, near the base of a rival rebel group. The Syrian rebel group, known as the Tawheed Brigades, confirmed the attack on Twitter, saying in an interview they posted that their commander, Adnan Bakour was killed.

Health & Fitness

Study: Kids' obesity risk starts before school age

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

Those efforts to fight obesity in schools? Think younger. A new study finds that much of a child's "weight fate" is set by age 5, and that nearly half of kids who became obese by the eighth grade were already overweight when they started kindergarten.

The prevalence of weight problems has long been known—about a third of U.S. kids are overweight or obese. But surprisingly little is known about which kids will develop obesity, and at what age.

Researchers think there may be a window of opportunity to prevent it, and "we keep pushing our critical window earlier and earlier on," said Solveig Cunningham, a scientist at Emory University. "A lot of the risk of obesity seems to be set, to some extent, really early in life."

She led the new study, which was published in this week's New England Journal of Medicine and paid for by the federal government.

It tracked a nationwide sample of more than 7,700 children through grade school.



In this Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014 file photo, Oumou Balde, 4, left, plays with her teacher Jacqualine Sanchez, right, and some pretend food in a pre-kindergarten class at the Sheltering Arms Learning Center in New York in a program that was produced in conjunction with the Sesame Street children's television show to educate children about nutrition and health.

When they started kindergarten, 12 percent were obese and 15 percent were overweight. By eighth grade, 21 percent were obese and 17 percent were overweight.

Besides how common obesity was at various ages, re-

searchers focused on the 6,807 children who were not obese when the study started, at kindergarten entry. Here are some things they found:

WHO BECAME OBESE: Between ages 5 and 14, nearly 12 percent of children developed

obesity—10 percent of girls and nearly 14 percent of boys.

Nearly half of kids who started kindergarten overweight became obese teens. Overweight 5-year-olds were four times as likely as normal-weight children to become obese (32 percent versus 8 percent).

GRADE LEVELS: Most of the shift occurred in the younger grades. During the kindergarten year, about 5 percent of kids who had not been

obese at the start became that way by the end. The greatest increase in the prevalence of obesity was between first and third grades; it changed little from ages 11 to 14.

RACE: From kindergarten through eighth grade, the prevalence of obesity increased by 65 percent among whites, 50 percent among Hispanics, almost 120 percent among blacks and more than 40 percent among others—Asians, Pacific Islanders and Native Americans and mixed-race children.

By eighth grade, 17 percent of black children had become obese, compared to 14 percent of Hispanics and 10 percent of whites and children of other races.

INCOME: Obesity was least common among children from the wealthiest families and most prevalent among kids in the next-to-lowest income category. The highest rate of children developing obesity during the study years was among middle-income families.

BIRTHWEIGHT: At all ages, obesity was more common among children who weighed a lot at birth—roughly 9 pounds or more. About 36 percent of kids who became obese during grade school had been large at birth.

The study's findings do not mean that it's too late for schools to act, but their best tactic may be to focus on kids who are overweight and try to

encourage exercise and healthy eating, Cunningham said.

The work also shows the need for parents, doctors, preschools and even day care centers to be involved, said Dr. Stephen Daniels, a University of Colorado pediatrician and a spokesman for the American Heart Association.

Parents who are concerned about a child's weight should talk with their child's doctor, because it may be hard to tell what is normal at various ages and appearances can be misleading. In children, obesity and overweight are defined by how a child ranks on growth charts that compare them to other kids the same age and gender. Kids at or above the 85th percentile are considered overweight, and obese at the 95th percentile or above.

No child should be placed on a diet without a doctor's advice, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises. To help keep kids healthy, balance the calories a child gets from food and beverages with how much exercise he or she gets to allow enough for normal growth—some weight gain is normal, the CDC says.

"You can change your fate by things that you do early in life," with more exercise and eating a healthy diet, Daniels said. "Once it occurs, obesity is really hard to treat. So the idea is we should really work hard to prevent it."

Personal Trainer

Special tennis warm-up

A tennis player who has not stretched and warmed up before playing is more likely to be hurt by the sport's sharp, repeated movements.

Some tennis-specific warm-up exercises

Before stretching Jog, walk or cycle for 5-10 minutes, until you sweat lightly

Shoulder stretch

Reach with dominant arm over your shoulder, as if you were serving

Try to touch other hand behind your back

Optional: Hold a towel behind your back (shown far right) to stretch shoulders

Leg stretches

Stand with hands on a wall or tree. Keep your heels pressed downward as you take small steps backward

Hold several seconds at stretched-out point

Targets: Achilles tendons and hamstring muscles

Hamstring muscles

Achilles tendons

Source: Dr. Kevin Plancher, WebMD

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

© 2014 MCT

By MARIA CHENG
AP MEDICAL WRITER

LONDON (AP)—Russian men who down large amounts of vodka—and too many do—have an "extraordinarily" high risk of an early death, a new study says.

Researchers tracked about 151,000 adult men in the Russian cities of Barnaul, Byisk and Tomsk from 1999 to 2010. They interviewed them about their drinking habits and, when about 8,000 later died, followed up to monitor their causes of death.

The risk of dying before age 55 for those who said they drank three or more half-liter bottles of vodka a week was a shocking 35 percent.

Overall, a quarter of Russian men die before reaching 55, compared with 7 percent of men in the United Kingdom and less than 1 percent in the United States. The life expectancy for men in Russia is 64 years—placing it among the lowest 50 countries in the world in that category.

It's not clear how many Russian men drink three bottles or more a week. Lead researcher Sir Richard Peto of Oxford University said the average Russian adult drinks 20 liters of vodka per year



In this Sept. 2005 file photo, men sleep after drinking on a bench in downtown Moscow.

while the average Briton drinks about three liters of spirits.

"Russians clearly drink a lot, but it's this pattern of getting really smashed on vodka and then continuing to drink that is dangerous," Peto said.

"The rate of men dying prematurely in Russia is totally out of line with the rest of Europe," he said. "There's also a heavy drinking culture in Finland and Poland but they still have nothing like Russia's risk of death."

Alcohol has long been a top killer in Russia and vodka is often the drink of choice, available cheaply and often homemade in small villages. Previous studies have estimated that more than

40 percent of working-age men in Russia die because they drink too much, including using alcohol that is not meant to be consumed like that in colognes and antiseptics.

Drinking is so engrained in Russian culture there's a word that describes a drinking binge that lasts several days: "zapoi."

Peto said there was some evidence of a similar effect in Russian women who also drank heavily but there was not enough data to draw a broad conclusion.

The study was paid for by the U.K. Medical Research Council and others. It was published online Thursday in the journal Lancet.

Life & Style

Thicke, Kendrick Lamar perform at Super Bowl party



Robin Thicke attends at ESPN The Party, on Friday, Jan., 31, 2014 in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Robin Thicke and Kendrick Lamar might be putting in their bids for the 2015 Super Bowl halftime show.

The artists were energetic when they performed Friday night at ESPN's pre-Super Bowl bash at Pier 36 in New York City.

Thicke's performance included the upbeat jams "Give It 2 U," "Magic" and "Blurred Lines," which he closed with and got the audience of a few thousand grooving.

He also slowed it down, playing the piano during "Dreamworld" and standing on top of it. Thicke even sang covers, including Michael Jackson's

"Rock With You" and Marvin Gaye's "Let's Stay Together." Thicke is in the midst of a lawsuit with Gaye's children, who say some of his songs, including the hit "Blurred Lines," sound too similar to Gaye's music.

Lamar was also a crowd pleaser, working the stage from left to right and performing hits like "Don't Kill My Vibe" and "Poetic Justice." The audience included a number of celebrities, from Spike Lee to Tim Tebow, Ice-T and Lindsey Vonn with her crutches.

The Seattle Seahawks will play the Denver Broncos on Sunday at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. Bruno Mars is the halftime performer.

Blige, Legend, Anthony headline NY Super Bowl bash

NEW YORK (AP)—Mary J. Blige, John Legend and Marc Anthony kicked off Super Bowl weekend in style by serenading a celebrity-filled crowd in Manhattan.

Hundreds of New Yorkers and visitors packed into Cipriani's 42nd Street on Friday night for a party sponsored by Shape and Men's Fitness magazines. Tickets cost \$2,500 per person.

Blige opened the show and had many in the crowd ignoring

their dinner by the end of her energetic set, which included hits like "I'm Goin' Down," "Good Woman Down" and an impassioned rendition of "No More Drama" that brought the crowd to its feet.

Serenading a swanky Manhattan crowd, Legend said he never thought he'd see the day a Super Bowl came to New York City.

Then he corrected himself: "More accurately, New Jersey." With that, he launched into a

song by one of New Jersey's favorite sons Bruce Springsteen: "Dancing in the Dark."

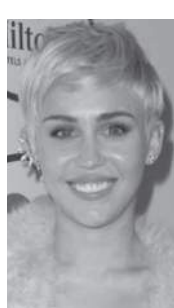
Guests—who included supermodel Petra Nemcova, TV hosts Stephen Colbert, Katie Couric and Gayle King, and film producer Harvey Weinstein—were served lobster, strip loin and branzino. The theme being fitness, dinner also included offerings of kale smoothies and non-alcoholic shots made with lemon and ginger.

Cyrus wants voice, not twerking, to be spotlighted

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Miley Cyrus wants you to concentrate on her voice—not her twerking—when she launches her tour next month.

"Ren and Stimpy" creator John Kricfalusi and contemporary artist Ben Jones have crafted videos to play during the 38 shows as Cyrus prioritizes singing over dance routines.

"When it's such a visual show, I'm not going to get up there and dance because I've got to sing live," Cyrus said in an interview Thursday night. "So it's like to have things that people can watch other than me ... not about me trying to keep up with choreography."



Cyrus

Unplugged" concert this week. She found the 55-year-old star a kindred spirit in displaying unabashed eroticism.

"I'm not trying to replicate her or be her, but we're standing for a similar freedom," Cyrus said. "It's even easier for me than I'm sure it was for Madonna. So I think it's

going to get easier and easier, as generations go on, women are going to be more accepted to be free and embrace sexuality."

Her North American tour kicks off Feb. 14 in Vancouver.

Howard Stern marks 60th birthday with radio bash

NEW YORK (AP)—For those who were there, it was like the Super Bowl without the bother of football.

For listeners of the Howard Stern Birthday Bash that aired live Friday on SiriusXM radio, it was like the Golden Globes without the distraction of awards, but with Stern, lots of merry-making celebs, and at least as much free-flowing booze.

Civilian Stern fans joined tribute-paying glitterati like Robert Downey, Jr., Bryan Cranston, Sarah Silverman, Lena Dunham, Ryan Phillippe, Heidi Klum, Fred Armisen, Rosie O'Donnell and Katie Couric at Manhattan's Hammerstein Ballroom.

Even New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was on hand, taking a brief respite from the political retribution scandal that has engulfed his administration to wish Stern a happy birthday. He reminded everyone who plans to be at Sunday's Super Bowl that, to get there, they will "have to go to the right side of the (Hudson) river."

He then introduced one of the night's many musical guests:

Jon Bon Jovi.

Other musical guests included John Fogerty, Jewel, The Black Keys, Dave Grohl, Adam Levine and Steven Tyler.

The Bash—which lasted a Super Bowl-sized four and a half hours—started at 6 p.m., with talk show host and the night's emcee, Jimmy Kimmel, introducing Stern as a broadcaster who "did to radio what Picasso did to visual art."

Kimmel meant that as high praise, but other guests took the opportunity to skewer Stern.

Referring to how Stern wears his years, Joan Rivers told him, "If your face were a car, it would be Paul Walker's Porsche." The room groaned, but Rivers fired back, "What do I care? I'm 80 years old."

And Louis C.K., noting he hadn't bothered to wear a suit, said, "It's a birthday party. When (Stern) dies, I'll wear a suit."

Regnant young wife needs to plan for future support

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: One of my childhood friends got married at a young age. She's now expecting and due in a few months. Every day she messages me on Facebook about something else her husband has done to cause her emotional stress. For example, a few weeks ago she found flirtatious erotic messages he had exchanged with another girl.

I want to help her because we have been friends for so long. We're both 19, and I feel I should know how to help her, but since I've never been married I don't know what to say. Any advice?

FRIEND IN KENTUCKY

DEAR FRIEND: What a sad situation. Your friend is married to someone who apparently doesn't want to be married—and it's open to question whether he will be much of a parent. If she has family, she should talk to them about this because she may need their help soon. She should also make plans for how she will support herself and the child, because her husband appears to be a flake.

Please pass this advice along. And let this be a lesson to you about the importance of achieving independence before assuming the responsibility of parenthood.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mother is in her mid-90s. Several of her life-long friends, widows, still live in their own homes, as she does. However, they no longer drive.

A phone call would help them communicate directly with each other about life situations, but it doesn't seem to happen. Instead of calling and talking to each other, they hear about each other third-hand.

Is it typical for the elderly to abandon each other and be so cruel? If so, what could help people communicate better regardless of age?

CONCERNED SON IN COLORADO

DEAR SON: Not everyone in their 90s ages the same way. Some individuals are still active; others are less so. When seniors stop driving, there can be a tendency for them to become isolated and depressed. Others may be taking medications that affect their memory.

A way to help people in your mother's age group would be to see that they have transportation to a senior center, where they can mingle face-to-face if they wish. I recommend this for your mother and her friends because I'm sure none of them are being deliberately cruel.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am an addict of Turner Classic Movies and wondered how those handsome actors and beautiful actresses control their libido during passionate love scenes. Or is there more to it than appears?

FILM BUFF IN ENCINITAS, CALIF.

DEAR FILM BUFF: Generally speaking, what an audience sees on the screen isn't an amorous encounter. Every gesture has been carefully choreographed. There may be a lot more acting than passion involved. (That's why it's called acting.) Remember, there is a director and there can be a crew of as many as 30 people standing around. Of course, there are always exceptions — Liz Taylor and Richard Burton would be one of them, and Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie would be another.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Serena Williams, LeBron James hit up Beats parties



Serena

NEW YORK (AP)—One Super Bowl party wasn't enough for Beats by Dre.

The headphone company held two events Friday with completely different vibes.

The night began at the intimate Graff Diamonds jewelry store, where Serena Williams, Anthony Mackie, Jerry Stackhouse, Jermaine Dupri and oth-

ers grooved to a performance by British singer Estelle. They also admired custom-made white headphones encrusted with 1,400 diamonds worth an estimated \$1 million. It stayed safely behind a glass case during the party.

Hours later, a more raucous crowd packed the club Marquee, where LeBron James, Colin Kaepernick (KAP'-ur-nihk), and Victor Cruz were among the revelers. Rick Ross performed his hits for the crowd, and then Kendrick Lamar—who performed earlier at ESPN's party—got on the mic for a bonus performance.

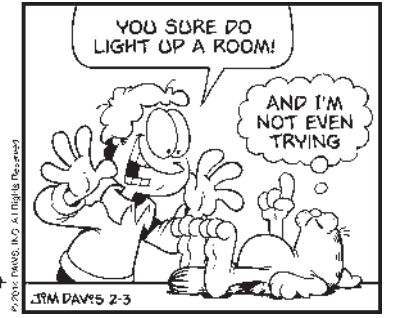
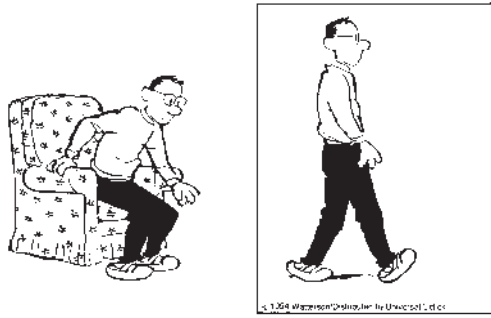
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

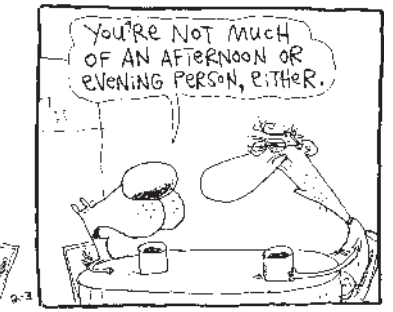
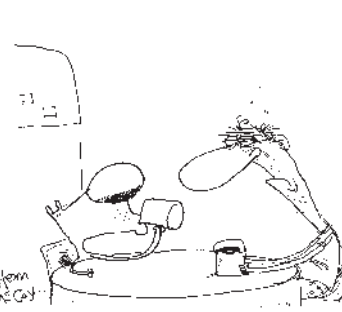
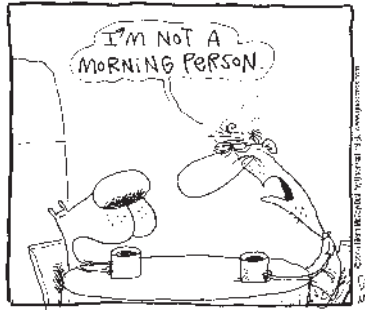
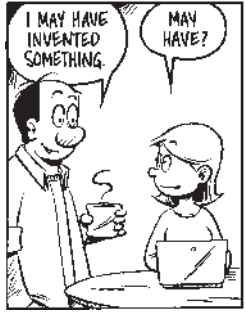


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Icelandic saga

5 Cow's comment

8 Desire

12 Jump

13 Annoy

14 Tide type

15 Apportion (out)

16 Write illegibly

18 Intelligence

20 Stir up

21 Hairstyle

23 Noah's boat

24 "The Game of Moral Dilemmas"

28 Pleasing

31 Raw rock

32 Brief fight

34 Sister

35 Couch

37 1988 Bill Murray movie

DOWN

1 "Desire Under the —"

2 Consider

3 Information

4 Insight

5 Cold War

6 Tolkien creature

7 Gumbo need

8 Still in the womb

9 Scolding sternly

10 Guys' mates

11 Duel tool

17 A

19 Surpasses

22 Retrieve

24 "Help!"

25 —

26 Source of a second opinion

27 Sieve

29 Prompt

30 Conclude

33 "My bad"

36 Fly

38 Bitter oranges

40 Still, in verse

42 Venomous vipers

43 Reverb

44 Impale

46 Tittle

47 —

48 Maintain

50 Eggs

Solution time: 27 mins.

R	F	F	I	A	O	S	M	P	O	U	R
E	V	I	L	A	G	E	I	C	O	N	
T	I	M	E	W	A	R	P	G	E	L	D
D	R	E	A	M	T	P	S	I			
I	I	K	E	N	S	K	Y	D	A	D	
E	V	I	L	S	O	U	W	O	R	D	
G	A	I	A	W	I	R	A	L	L	Y	
O	N	T	I	M	E	G	E	L			
K	E	E	P	I	M	E	Z	O	N	E	
I	D	I	F	F	R	I	E	I	D	S	
D	O	L	L	R	E	V	O	L	I	T	

Friday's answer 2-3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19				20		
			21			22		23		
24	25	26				27		28	29	30
31				32				33		34
35				36		37		38		
			39		40	41				
42	43				44		45		46	47
49					50			51		
52					53			54		
55					56			57		

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Isla Fisher, 38; Nathan Lane, 58; Morgan Fairchild, 64; Blythe Danner, 71.

Happy Birthday: Level out emotionally and you will be able to look at your situation differently. The options you have may be long-term, but in the end, you will reach your destination. It's the journey that counts, as well as how you treat the people you meet along the way. Try and you will surpass your expectations. Your numbers are 4, 9, 12, 23, 36, 42, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get into the groove. Staying busy and focused on your accomplishments will help you avoid anxiety and fear of not measuring up to what's expected of you. Show how masterful you can be by getting things done. A positive choice will pay off. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do what you can to help others. Offer suggestions and show compassion. The solutions you offer will be impressive and help you drum up interest in something you want to pursue. Romance will help improve your love life. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Approach any situation you face with honesty. Uncertainty will not go over well when dealing with colleagues, friends or those you are trying to win approval from. Avoid impulsive expenditures, lending or borrowing. Adaptability will help you excel. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotional matters will lead to unexpected changes that may not sit well with you. Show your concern and offer suggestions that will help

smooth things over. Compromise and understanding, along with using your intuitive intelligence, will help ward off personal problems. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A challenge or taking on a competitive position will help get you moving and motivate you to succeed. Test your skills and master what you enjoy doing most, and you will gain confidence and satisfaction. Social activity will pay off. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Expect to face a financial setback if you get involved in a joint investment. Being responsible will help you avoid making a mistake. Doing something to avoid conflict will not bring good results. Practical application will pay off. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expect to face opposition when dealing with a personal or business partnership. Don't let your emotions cost you. Make choices based on what's best for you financially. An impulsive act will turn into a big fiasco. Back away from anyone using emotional manipulation. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Bide your time and take care of the finer details when dealing with work or personal projects. Set your own standards and refuse to let anyone coerce you into doing something you don't want to do. Make decisions based on your success and happiness. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make positive changes at home and to your personal life that will allow you the freedom to do as you please. Stick to the truth when asked to do something. Don't take on or make promises that are unrealistic. ★★★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		9		6	4					
			5			7	1			
8		7		1	3					
	7				2	9	6			
		3			4					
6		4	1			5				
			2	6		3	9			
9	2			7						
	1		9		5					

Difficulty Level ★

2/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

3	2	9	5	4	1	8	7	6
5	8	7	3	2	6	4	9	1
1	4	6	7	9	8	2	5	3
2	3	4	8	5	7	1	6	9
9	7	1	6	3	4	5	8	2
8	6	5	9	1	2	3	4	7
4	9	3	1	7	5	6	2	8
6	1	2	4	8	9	7	3	5
7	5	8	2	6	3	9	1	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/7

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Let the dust settle before you make a decision that will influence your environment or surroundings. Getting along with people in your community will be necessary if you want things to go your way. Set your priorities and proceed. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take an emotional stance and base your needs on what you see going on around you. Picking and choosing the direction that suits you best will set you on a positive path that will help you reach your personal and professional goals. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Honesty will be questioned and secrets revealed. Protect your reputation by handling whatever issues arise swiftly and truthfully. You will gain respect and win favors if you show integrity and compassion. Hold your head high and move forward with confidence. ★★★



Birthday Baby: You are determined, smart and intuitive. You are entertaining and unique.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHAMPAGNE BOTTLES

Solution: 7 letters

Y	B	A	G	T	G	N	A	O	S	M	P	O	U	R
E	N	I	W	R	E	R	T	G	P	E	C	I	H	A
A	A	I	E	G	I	G	A	N	I	E	S	I	L	S
R	S	E	Y	L	L	P	S	P	E	N	N	A	M	E
T	N	X	S	I	E	U	T	V	E	E	G	A	C	D
T	O	A	S	T	B	L	E	S	O	M	R	E	B	I
Y	I	M	A	E	A	E	D	D	L	I	M	I	O	M
T	T	P	L	R	L	I	E	D	F	U	R	T	W	E
I	A	O	G	S	M	T	E	L	L	U	F	F	L	N
V	R	T	P	N	L	A	O	S	S	P	I	N	T	
I	B	W	L	E	L	S	V	T	D	L	O	G	T	E
T	E	E	M	I	K	V	I	N	T	A	G	E	N	V
S	L	R	H	U	N	C	O	R	K	I	N	G	E	R
E	E	C	C	A	P	S	U	L	E	Z	I	S	V	E
F	C	S	Y	L	B	B	U	B	O	T	T	L	E	S

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2/3

Aging, Bag, Bottles, Bowl, Bubbly, Bucket, Cage, Capsule, Cases, Celebrations, Chilled, Dimple, Event, Fermented, Festivity, Flask, Full, Gala, Gift, Glass, Gold, Grape, Green, Grip, Ice, Label, Liters, Mild, Mosel, Name, Open, Oxygen, Pint, Pour, Rhine, Rustic, Screw Top, Sediment, Serve, Size, Sleeve, Taste, Toast, Twist, Uncorking, Vintage, Volume, Wine, Wire, Year
Last Friday's Answer: Neighborhood
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit wonderword.universalclic.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Wizards end Thunder's 10-game win streak, 96-81



WASHINGTON (AP)—The first half ended with a case of the Marquee Miscues. Kevin Durant lost the ball to John Wall, and Wall then missed an open fast-break layup at the horn. It was Durant's fourth turnover and Wall's seventh miss in a row.

At halftime, Wall changed his shoes. Maybe that was the difference.

The newly minted first-time All-Star guard scored 15 of his 17 points in the second half, and the Washington Wizards took advantage of a rare off-night from Durant and snapped the Oklahoma Thunder's 10-game winning streak Saturday with a 96-81 win.

"I didn't like how I played on the road trip in my white shoes, so I tried the red ones," Wall said. "They didn't work in the first half, so I got rid of them and went back to my old white ones, and they kind of helped me out. I'm kind of superstitious."

Wall also had 15 assists and six steals and went 7 for 11 from the field after halftime, more than making up for the 0-for-7 first half. Marcin Gortat had 14 points and 14 rebounds, while Trevor Ariza added 18 points and did a solid job defending Durant, whose 26 points came on 8-for-21 shooting, including 0 for 6 from 3-point range, and enough calls to make him 10 for 10 from the free-throw line. He also committed five turnovers.

"Just stay in his grille, man," Ariza said. "Just try to make him take tough shots. Try not to give him no easy, easy looks."

Durant had a streak of 12 consecutive 30-point games end during a 25-point win over the Brooklyn Nets on Friday. Sitting at his locker before Saturday's game, his legs hooked up to compression tubes for a high-tech massage, he talked about the 100 or so tickets he had to secure for family and friends in D.C.

Whether it was hometown jitters - or fatigue from the night before—or the unfamiliarity of the new balls with Adam Silver's signature on the first day of work for the new NBA commissioner—or the solid defense of Ariza—the city's native son had a rough night fighting the Wizards defense.

"They made me see a crowd," Durant said. "There were a few shots that I should have hit. I had some good looks, but they did a good job."

The Thunder's only lead was 2-0. They committed 10 of their 21 turnovers in the first quarter.

"We were just a step slow in everything," Durant said. "We didn't start up with enough energy and intensity and that falls back on me as a leader."

The victory moved the Wizards to .500 for the seventh time this season, which means they get yet another chance to overcome an obstacle that has flummoxed them in recent weeks. A

win Monday against Portland would give Washington a winning record for the first time since October 2009.

"That's cool for y'all. I don't know if it's cool for us," said guard Garrett Temple, when the subject that has become increasingly taboo in the locker room was broached by reporters. "But we've got to not even worry about that. We've got a tough team coming here on Monday night."

Heat 106, Knicks 91

In New York, LeBron James had 30 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, as Miami avoided a winless season in the Big Apple by ending New York's four-game winning streak.

Dwyane Wade added 22 points for the Heat, who avoided becoming the first team to go 0-4 in New York this season after losing on their previous trip to Madison Square Garden last month and both games in Brooklyn.

Carmelo Anthony had 26 points and eight rebounds for the Knicks, who had been 4-1 against the Heat over the last two seasons but were overmatched in this one. They finished 4-4 on their eight-game homestand, which matched the longest in franchise history.

Clippers 102, Jazz 87

In Los Angeles, Jamal Crawford scored 27 points off the bench, and Blake Griffin had 25 points and 11 rebounds as Los Angeles pulled away in the third quarter to beat Utah.

The Clippers, looking to win their second straight division title, are 19-7 since Dec. 14 and 11-4 since All-Star point guard Chris Paul separated his right shoulder. They lead second-place Phoenix by 3½ games in the Pacific Division standings following the Suns' victory over Charlotte. DeAndre Jordan had 14 rebounds and 10 points during a foul-plagued 35 minutes.

Enes Kanter led Utah with 23 points and 14 boards, while teammates Derrick Favors and Jeremy Evans sat out with injuries. Favors has inflammation in his right hip, and Evans has a bruised tailbone and right elbow.

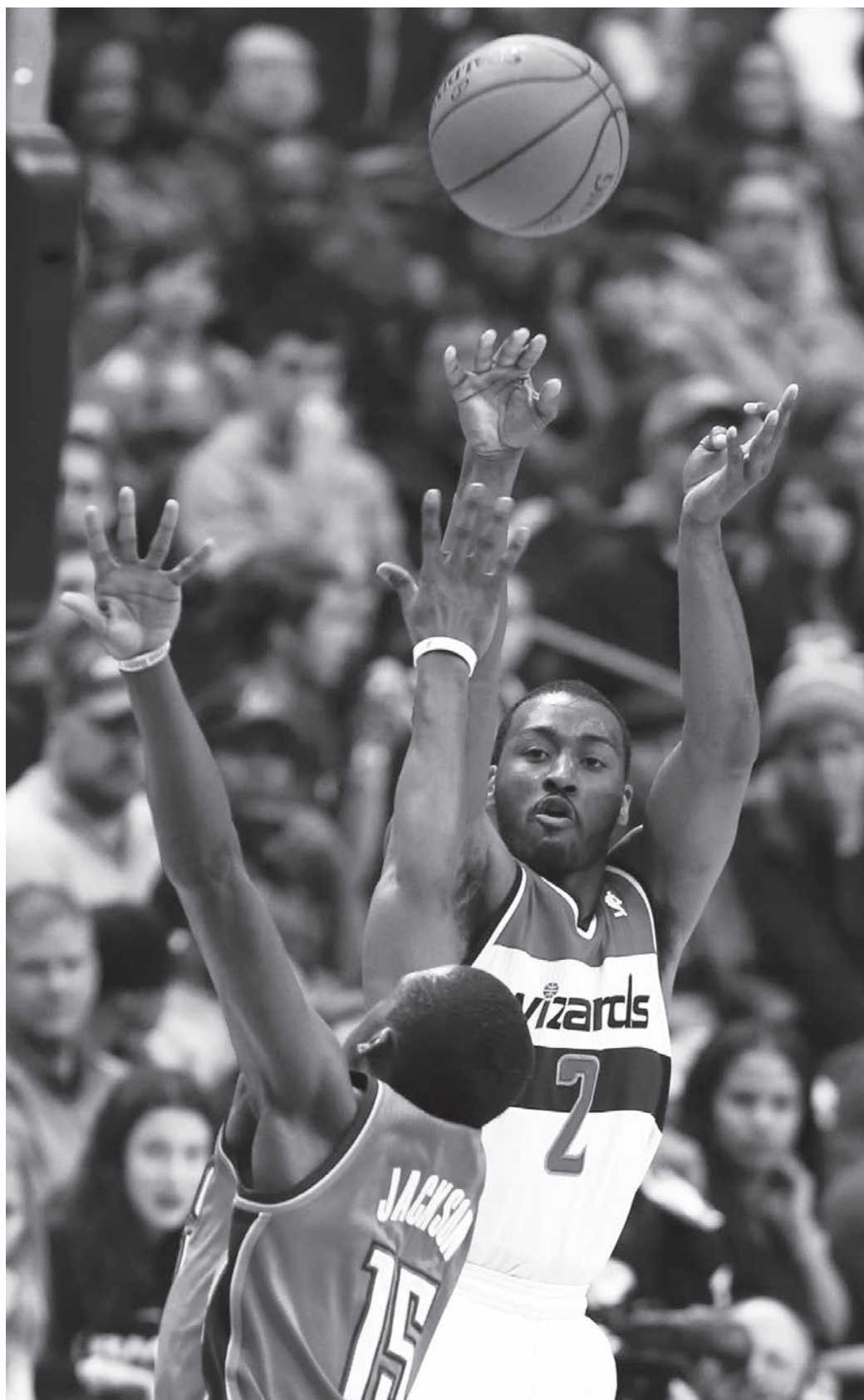
Pacers 97, Nets 96

In Indianapolis, Paul George and Roy Hibbert both had 20 points as Indiana overcame an early deficit to beat Brooklyn.

Lance Stephenson, left out of the All-Star game despite leading the NBA in triple-doubles, added 14 points for the Pacers (36-10), who improved the league's best home record to 22-2. David West had 17 points and George Hill scored 10.

Shaun Livingston had a season-high 24 points for the Nets, who couldn't hold an early seven-point lead against the Eastern Conference leaders.

Joe Johnson, an All-Star selection, spent much of the night



Washington Wizards guard John Wall (2) shoots over Oklahoma City Thunder guard Reggie Jackson (15) in the second half of an NBA basketball game on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2014, in Washington.

dueling with Stephenson and scored 16 for Brooklyn, which has lost three straight since starting January with 11 wins in 12 games.

Trail Blazers 106, Raptors 103

In Portland, Oregon, LaMarcus Aldridge had 27 points and 15 rebounds, and Damian Lillard hit a go-ahead free throw with 11.8 seconds as Portland pulled out the victory after holding off Toronto's furious second-half rally.

The Raptors wiped out a 19-point deficit to take a 103-102 lead on two free throws by DeMar DeRozan with 25 seconds remaining.

Lillard and Wesley Matthews scored 21 points apiece for Portland and Nicolas Batum added 18.

DeRozan finished with 36 points and 12 assists, doing most of his damage during a 30-point

second half. He accounted for 22 of the Raptors' 26 second-half baskets with 12 field goals and 10 assists.

Kyle Lowry added 23 points for Toronto.

Spurs 95, Kings 93

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 23 points and 17 rebounds, and Tony Parker added 18 points and 10 assists as San Antonio snapped a three-game slide by rallying past skidding Sacramento.

Patty Mills scored 15 points and Boris Diaw added 14 for San Antonio.

Isaiah Thomas had 26 points, Rudy Gay scored 23 and Derrick Williams added 14 for Sacramento, which has lost seven straight.

After being outplayed by Gay and Thomas for much of the game, the veteran Spurs took over down the stretch to end their longest losing streak

of the season.

Parker and Duncan scored San Antonio's final eight points.

Rockets 106, Cavaliers 92

In Houston, James Harden returned from injury to score 28 points and Jeremy Lin had his first career triple-double to lead Houston to its third straight win with the victory over Cleveland.

Dwight Howard added 26 points and Lin came off the bench to tally 15 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists.

Harden sat out the last two games with a bruised left thumb. It showed no signs of bothering him Saturday, when he also had four assists and three rebounds.

Luol Deng had 24 points and Kyrie Irving added 21 points and seven assists for Cleveland, which lost its fourth straight game.

Pistons 113, 76ers 96

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, An-

dre Drummond had 22 points and 14 rebounds as Detroit's talented frontcourt overwhelmed short-handed Philadelphia.

Greg Monroe added 21 points and 12 rebounds. He and Drummond combined to go 18 of 21 from the field. Brandon Jennings and Kyle Singler added 20 points apiece for Detroit.

Philadelphia was without rookie of the year candidate Michael Carter-Williams, who sat out with a sore right shoulder. Tony Wroten led the 76ers with 18 points.

The Pistons have won back-to-back games at The Palace for the first time since their first two home games of the season. Detroit is 9-15 at home.

Hawks 120, Timberwolves 113

In Atlanta, Kyle Korver scored 24 points, including a trio of 3-pointers in a third-quarter stretch that gave Atlanta the lead, as the Hawks overcame Kevin Love's 43 points to beat Minnesota.

Paul Millsap, guarded by Love much of the night in a matchup of All-Stars, had 20 points and 13 rebounds before fouling out late in the game.

A jam by Minnesota's Corey Brewer with 2:55 remaining cut Atlanta's lead to 107-104. Jeff Teague, who had 19 points, drove for a layup and DeMarre Carroll's free throws pushed the lead to seven points.

Love's 3-pointer again trimmed the margin to three before Atlanta's Gustavo Ayon banked in an unlikely scoop shot to thwart the comeback attempt.

Pelicans 88, Bulls 79

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis scored 24 points and grabbed eight rebounds to lead New Orleans past Chicago.

Tyreke Evans added 11 points for the Pelicans, who have won four of their past five games.

D.J. Augustin scored 23 points, Taj Gibson added 17 and Joakim Noah had 14 for Chicago.

Davis also blocked six shots and the Pelicans dominated in the paint, outscoring the Bulls 50-34.

New Orleans led 50-39 at the half, and with Davis dominating the middle the Pelicans maintained a double-digit lead for most of the second half.

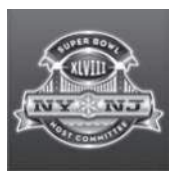
Grizzlies 99, Bucks 90

In Memphis, Tenn., Nick Calathes, subbing for an injured Mike Conley, scored a career-high 22 points as the surging Grizzlies defeated the Bucks.

Zach Randolph had 23 points and 10 rebounds for Memphis, which won its season-best sixth straight and 11 of 12 overall. Marc Gasol had 19 points and James Johnson scored 14.

Brandon Knight led Milwaukee with 23 points, including 18 in the second half. Knight also had seven assists.

Different QB styles clash at Super Bowl



EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP)—This Super Bowl

has just about everything a fan, a player, a coach—and certainly a league—could ask for.

Denver's record-setting offense versus Seattle's relentlessly stingy defense. Coaches who actually smile and think football should be fun. A wintry setting, and the best two teams in the NFL.

"It's very special to be here," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said of Sunday's big game. "Look at this event that our players are having to take part of. The game, the matchup, the culmination of the season, all of this is just extraordinary."

This Super Bowl could also have a profound effect on the immediate future of pro football.

It may be a referendum on whether the NFL's showpiece event should ever again be held outdoors in a cold-weather city. But more likely is it being a strong indicator about the future of the quarterback position.

The game will feature the classic pocket passer emblematic of the old guard—Denver's veteran Peyton Manning, who has had an extraordinarily prolific season.

Against him is Seattle's quick-footed, quick-witted scrambler Russell Wilson, who represents the new guard along with the likes of Robert Griffin III, Colin Kaepernick, Cam Newton, even Andrew Luck.

Seattle's miserly defense wants to force Manning into uncomfortable territory, which means anywhere outside the passing pocket. Denver's defense will be intent on giving Wilson a taste of claustrophobia by keeping him hemmed in the pocket.

Both QB approaches work for their offenses, or else these two teams wouldn't each be 15-3, top seeds in their conferences and facing off for the championship. The quarterback differences—aside from age, time of service in the pros, or even their height—Manning is about 15 centimeters (6 inches) taller than Wilson—make this Super Bowl even more intriguing.

There will always be a place in anyone's starting lineup for a Peyton Manning, who deserves strong consideration in the debate about the greatest quarterback in history, regardless of whether he adds a second Super Bowl ring on Sunday. Teams construct their offense around a talent like that.

Whether most teams will stick with convention or



Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning passes during practice Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014, in Florham Park, N.J. The Broncos are scheduled to play the Seattle Seahawks in the NFL Super Bowl XLVIII football game Sunday, Feb. 2, in East Rutherford, N.J.

choose mobile, creative and elusive passers such as Wilson won't be decided by who wins at the Meadowlands. But it could play a significant role.

"As a talent evaluator for college and even free agency, the toughest thing to evaluate is process," Broncos quarterbacks coach Greg Knapp said. "Can the guy process in the pocket during the heat of battle?"

Everyone knows Manning has had that skill throughout his career, and Wilson has

provided strong evidence in his two NFL seasons that he's got it, too.

"Peyton might be one of the best I've ever been around that can process, 'Ok, I've got these tools to use, and in 10 seconds I've got to make a decision, and execute in less than four,'" Knapp added.

Wilson's multi-faceted abilities on the field might differ in method to Manning's, but Carroll sees many similarities off the playing field.

"He's an incredible com-

petitor in every way," Carroll said of his quarterback, who at 25 is 12 years younger than Manning. "In preparation, in game day, he's the epitome of what you want in your competitor. He's got tremendous work habits. He's got extraordinary athleticism. He's got a general all-around savvy that allows him to make great decisions under pressure.

"He's extremely confident, too, so no matter what is going on, he's not going to waver in his focus and ability to

handle things."

Manning believes elements of all styles will always be in demand.

"I could describe the perfect quarterback. Take a little piece of everybody," he said. "Take John Elway's arm, Dan Marino's release, maybe Troy Aikman's dropback, Brett Favre's scrambling ability, Joe Montana's two-minute poise and, naturally, my speed."

After the laughter stopped, Manning continued:

"I could take a piece of everyone, of some of my favorite quarterbacks, and I could take 30 traits from different guys, and put them in that perfect quarterback."

But will that perfect QB in years to come feature more of Manning and his mold or of Wilson and his ilk?

Sunday's game could provide a glimpse into that future.

Broncos' Welker does not dwell on costly drop

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—Wes Welker swears he doesn't dwell on his costly drop in the Super Bowl two years ago that could have sealed New England's win over the New York Giants and made up for losing to them four years earlier.

"You know what? I don't even think about it," Welker said as he prepared for his third Super Bowl, his first with the Denver Broncos. "The past is the past, what happened, happened, and I'm just looking forward to this one and going out there and playing my best game and doing what I can to help my team win."

Welker said getting to the big game and coming up short two times is what drives him.

"I think it's the reason I get up in the morning in the offseason and even now," he said after helping the Broncos beat his old team for the AFC title, securing a showdown with the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday night at MetLife Stadium.

Welker tied a Super Bowl record with 11 receptions for 103 yards six years ago but the Patriots' perfect season ended when Eli Manning threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Plaxico Burress with 35 seconds left to give the Giants a 17-14 win.

The teams met again four years later in Indianapolis and Welker caught seven passes for 60 yards and ran twice for 21 more, but it was the catch he didn't make that haunts Patriots fans to this day.

The Patriots led 17-15 with four minutes left and were on the Giants' 44 when Tom Brady found Welker wide open 23 yards downfield. The pass, however, was high and slightly behind Welker, who got both hands on the ball but couldn't make the catch.

The Giants got the ball back and drove for the winning touchdown.

"Sure, I mean it moti-

vates you during the offseason. It motivates you when you're working out, it motivates you through the year," Welker said. "Just that feeling of losing that game, I mean it's heartbreaking. It takes a few weeks just to get over it. It definitely sticks with you and motivates you for the future and definitely blessed to have this opportunity again."

Welker joined Peyton Manning in Denver in the offseason after six seasons with Brady and was Denver's leading receiver until missing the final 3 1/2 games after sustaining his second concussion in a three-week span. He still ended up with 778 yards on 73 catches and a career-high 10 touchdowns. Wearing a bigger helmet to protect against further head injury, he's caught 10 passes for 76 yards and a TD in the playoffs.

He had four catches for 38 yards against New England in the AFC Championship and his hard hit took out Patriots top cornerback Aqib Talib on a pick play at the line of scrimmage. The next day, Patriots coach Bill Belichick suggested Welker deliberately tried to hurt Talib and complained to the league about it.

The NFL said no infraction had occurred.

Welker's teammates said Belichick was just using Welker as a smoke screen and a scapegoat to hide deficiencies in his team's defense and the fact that Welker's replacement in New England, Danny Amendola, dropped the only pass thrown to him in the title game.

Welker stayed above the fray, saying he was just happy to be back in the Super Bowl.

"I'm very blessed to have this opportunity again and that's all you really ask for," he said. "It's all you work for during the offseason is to get to this point and now you just want to finish it."

Bubba Watson leads Phoenix Open

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—A desert critter saved leader Bubba Watson at least a stroke Saturday in the Phoenix Open. Some pigskin play cost Phil Mickelson to the chagrin of the rowdiest fans in the largest crowd in golf history.

The estimated 189,722 in attendance had a lot to see on a sunny, cool day at TPC

Scottsdale.

Watson's drive on the par-5 13th went into a desert bush and settled next to a burrowing animal hole that would have interfered with his swing, giving him a free drop.

"Right next to my ball was a burrowing animal hole and my club was going to hit it at impact," Watson said. "It was

big hole and the club would get caught on it. So, I got a free drop and could easily wedge it out."

He hit a 150-yard shot to the fairway, followed with a wedge to the fringe and two-putted for par on the way to a 3-under 68 and a two-stroke lead.

Without the free drop, he thought he could have played a shorter shot.

"I was looking at a 20- or 30-yard shot," Watson said.

Mickelson made a double bogey on the par-3 No. 16, the 20,000-seat stadium hole where he "lost focus" thinking about throwing

footballs into the crowd.

The defending champion half-shanked his tee shot left on the 128-yard hole. He followed with a weak flop shot into the bunker, blasted to 8 feet and two-putted.

"It was a gap wedge. It was pathetic," Mickelson said. "I don't even know what to say. I don't remember ever hitting a shot like that even in practice."

ing to do that, because mentally I was thinking about throwing it a couple holes prior.

"It took me out of my element. I hit the worst shot imaginable, and then I followed with four other terrible ones. It was just some of the worst shots imaginable. I just lost focus and I think a lot of it was due to the fact that I have never done something like that on the 16th hole. I thought it was going to be fun."

He finished with a 72 to drop to 3 under.

Watson was at 15-under 198. Winless since the 2012 Masters, the long-hitting left-hander also scrambled to save par on the par-5 15th, holing a 15-footer after losing another drive to the right.

ROLLERS

From Page 28

Rollers 2 protected the driver's seat, as Kobe Mendoza did a solid quarterbacking job for the eventual champion. The Rollers 1 guard spotted big men Jun Fidelino and Mike Espinosa cutting in the paint for point-blank shots, while Capuyon and Darag occasionally popped long jumpers.

Before getting into their rhythm in the second half, Fidelino and Espinosa were held to one field goal apiece in the first half, leaving Mendoza and Darag to carry the fight for Rollers 2.

Rollers 1, on the other hand, was out of sync in the second half, particularly Mike Arciaga and J.P. Iglecias. Arciaga, who had a game-high 19 points in their semis win against FTMP,

was limited to 4 points, while Iglecias, who tallied 7 in the previous game, had only one basket and committed several turnovers in the second half.

The rest of the Rollers 1 could not hit baskets in streaks and at one point in the closing minutes of the finals attempted four shots in succession and missed all. Rollers 1's string of misses started in the last two minutes of the game after Kobe Mendoza made a pair of charities and gave Rollers 2 a 52-47 cushion. Arciaga had the first miss, overshooting his mark, while Malonzo also muffed an undergoal stab. Rollers 1 got the second offensive board and this time William Camacho pulled up for a triple from the right key and missed, too. Another botched triple from Malonzo from the left key added to Rollers 1's offensive woes.

Finally, Rollers 2 controlled

the rebound and while Rollers 2 bled for points in the previous plays, Mike Espinosa nonchalantly attempted a triple way past the 3-point arc and made the dagger, 55-47, with less than a minute left in the match.

Rollers 2 then got the ball back when Capuyon reached in against Prince Factor, who tried to post up and get a quick two-point field goal. Capuyon managed to tap the ball out, which Mendoza picked up and Rollers 1 was forced to commit a pre-emptive foul. Rollers 2 went on to spend the remaining minutes of the match by stepping to the stripe and going 5-for-6 to secure the title win, while Rollers 2 managed to hit late treys that only sliced the deficit to single digit.

Mendoza top-scored for Rollers 2 with his 16 points, while Capuyon and Espinosa chipped

in 12 and 10, respectively. Fidelino and Darag added 9 each, while Factor was the lone double figure scorer for Rollers 1 with his 15 markers.

Meanwhile, Rollers Basketball Club head coach Joe Diaz thanked Sun Palace and TSL Foundation for giving the CNMI youth players something worthwhile to do during school break. The tournament, which started during the holiday season, honed not only the players' games, but also their officiating skills, according to Diaz.

Rollers 2 60 – Mendoza 16, Capuyon 12, Espino 10, Fidelino 9, Darag 9, Cenir 4.

Rollers 1 53 – Factor 15, Malonzo 9, Camacho 7, Pangelinan 6, Cayading 6, Arciaga 4, Iglecias 2, Omori 2.

Scoring by halves: 27-28, 60-53.

The Lions bagged one run in the first inning off a Red Sox's miscue and one more in the third off a sacrifice fly.

The Lions then won the exchange in the next three innings, 3-1, to stay in the game, 6-8, with only one inning left. However, the Red Sox's finished strong with three runs at the top of the seventh to gain more cushion, as Bradley Lieto made an RBI single and the two other runs were posted off the Lions' errors.

Jerald Cabrera, who pitched in no relief for the Red Sox, earned the win, as he struck out two Lions batters in the last inning. The Red Sox got the other out after catching a fly ball at leftfield.

Rosiong had a two-RBI double in first inning, while the three other runs came off two walks and a passed ball. The Braves failed to score in the opening inning before making in to the board in the second off a passed ball, but still failed to make headway, while the Comets got three more runs in the fourth for an 8-1 advantage.

The Braves then threatened the Comets I in the penultimate inning after gaining five runs, mostly off errors, to move within two, 6-8. A two-run single from Jesse Taitaino at the bottom fifth give Comets I distance and it went on to preserve the lead and the win after giving up only one run at the top of the sixth. Josenio Alvarez doubled and eventually reached home for the Braves with only one out before the Braves' next two batters were beaten to first base.

BRAVES

From Page 28

balls. With the Braves defense in place in the last five innings, the best that the Enforcers could do was made it to second base.

Jets 9, Fielders 3

The Jets also leaned on their solid defense in the first three innings to stun the defending champions Fielders (0-2).

The Jets shut out the Fielders in the first three innings for a 2-0 advantage. Nate Camacho started out for the Jets and nearly threw a no-hitter, blanking the Fielders in the first three innings before giving up a single and a run in the

fourth inning.

The Fielders' one run, however, was not enough to throw the Jets out of their rhythm, as the latter earlier got four runs at the top of the fourth to widen their lead, 6-1. Camacho and T.J. Dela Cruz had RBI singles in that inning, while the Jets got the two other runs off the Fielders' errors. Two more earned runs in the fifth nullified the Fielder's two runs at the bottom and the Jets held strong in the last two innings to hand their foe back-to-back losses.

The Fielders were done after only three batters in the sixth inning, as the Jets caught two fly balls and the third runner was beaten at first base. Fran-

co Nakamura then closed out the game for the Jets in style, striking out the Fielders' first three batters.

Red Sox 11, Lions 5

In the other Senior League game last Saturday, the Red Sox outclassed the Lions to grab a share of the lead in the six-team field.

The Red Sox's bats went to work in the first three innings to gain leverage against the Lions. Shortstop Jhace Palacios connected on a two-RBI double in the first inning and the Red Sox notched two more runs off a wild pitch and error at centerfield for a 4-1 lead, which they stretched to 7-2, after three complete innings.

passed ball. The Falcons quickly regained the lead at the bottom third, 4-3, off Iguel's RBI triple, but the Enforcers evened up the match anew at the top of the fifth inning with Lizama reaching home plate off the defending champions' miscue at third base.

IT&E and the Red Sox played in the other game last Sunday and results will be reported in *Saipan Tribune* later this week.

Comets I 10, Braves 7

In last Saturday's final game, Comets I also booked its second win in as many games after defeating the Braves (1-1).

Comets I got off to a good start and withstood the Braves' late rally to keep its unbeaten record.

A five-run bottom off the first inning have the Comets I control of the match. Niffitan

FALCONS

From Page 28

ning, blasted a triple, and then reached home off the Enforcers' error at second base.

With Cangco putting the Falcons on top, 5-4, the Enforcers must make at least one run at the top of the last inning to extend the game, but the latter seemed to succumb to pressure early, as it was called for the first two outs. Cangco caught a fly ball from leadoff batter Raymond Ilo, while Pangelinan struck out Paul Itibus. A base hit from shorts stop Troy Laniyo kept the Enforcers' hopes alive, but not for long, as Pangelinan and Cangco teamed up in the last out. The closer picked up a grounder and threw to Cangco at first base to end the match.

It was another sorry loss for



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	25	22	.532	—
Brooklyn	20	25	.444	4
New York	19	28	.404	6
Philadelphia	15	33	.313	10½
Boston	15	33	.313	10½

Southeast Division

Miami	33	13	.717	—
Atlanta	25	21	.543	8
Washington	23	23	.500	10
Charlotte	21	28	.429	13½
Orlando	13	35	.271	21

Central Division

Indiana	36	10	.783	—
Chicago	23	23	.500	13
Detroit	19	27	.413	17
Cleveland	16	31	.340	20½
Milwaukee	8	39	.170	28½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	34	13	.723	—
Houston	32	17	.653	3
Memphis	26	20	.565	7½
Dallas	27	21	.563	7½
New Orleans	20	26	.435	13½

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	38	11	.776	—
Portland	34	13	.723	3
Minnesota	23	24	.489	14
Denver	22	23	.489	14
Utah	16	31	.340	21

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	34	16	.680	—
Phoenix	29	18	.617	3½
Golden State	29	19	.604	4
L.A. Lakers	16	31	.340	16½
Sacramento	15	32	.319	17½

PHOENIX OPEN SCORES

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP) — Scores Saturday in the Phoenix Open, a US PGA Tour event at 7,152-yard, par-71 TPC Scottsdale:

Third Round

Bubba Watson	64-66-68	—198
Kevin Stadler	65-68-67	—200
Ryan Moore	66-71-64	—201
Harris English	65-67-69	—201
Hideki Matsuyama	66-67-68	—201
Brendan Steele	66-74-62	—202
Hunter Mahan	66-71-65	—202
Matt Jones	65-65-72	—202
Jason Kokrak	66-69-68	—203
Pat Perez	65-68-70	—203
Greg Chalmers	65-67-71	—203
Graham DeLaet	67-72-65	—204
Matt Every	72-66-67	—205
Ricky Barnes	71-67-67	—205
Chris Stroud	70-67-68	—205
Nick Watney	69-68-68	—205
Patrick Reed	67-67-71	—205
Morgan Hoffmann	69-66-70	—205
John Rollins	72-67-67	—206
John Mallinger	67-72-67	—206
Charles Howell III	70-69-67	—206
Martin Laird	67-68-71	—206
Spencer Levin	67-69-70	—206
Brandt Snedeker	70-64-72	—206
Ben Crane	69-69-69	—207
Cameron Tringale	71-67-69	—207
Webb Simpson	68-72-67	—207
William McGirt	65-69-73	—207
Bryce Molder	67-71-70	—208
David Lynn	72-66-70	—208
Kevin Na	70-70-68	—208
Bill Haas	69-68-71	—208
David Lingmerth	72-68-68	—208
Brendon de Jonge	66-73-70	—209
John Merrick	75-65-69	—209
Ken Duke	70-67-72	—209
Geoff Ogilvy	71-70-68	—209
Scott Piercy	67-67-75	—209
Camilo Villegas	70-71-68	—209
Chris Smith	70-69-71	—210
Phil Mickelson	71-67-72	—210
Erik Compton	67-72-71	—210
Robert Garrigus	70-70-70	—210
James Driscoll	67-70-73	—210
Michael Thompson	72-68-70	—210
Ryan Palmer	76-64-70	—210
Kiradech Aphibarnrat	66-71-73	—210
Jason Bohn	70-70-70	—210
K.J. Choi	71-70-69	—210
Brian Stuard	73-68-69	—210
Charley Hoffman	70-71-69	—210
Justin Hicks	71-70-69	—210
Jonathan Byrd	68-73-69	—210
Aaron Baddeley	68-70-73	—211
Gary Woodland	67-72-72	—211
Jonas Blixt	68-71-72	—211
David Hearn	68-70-73	—211
Brian Gay	69-71-71	—211
Martin Kaymer	69-71-71	—211
Nicolas Colsaerts	69-68-74	—211
Sang-Moon Bae	67-73-71	—211
Roberto Castro	72-69-70	—211
Brian Davis	72-69-70	—211
J.B. Holmes	73-68-70	—211
John Peterson	68-70-74	—212
Y.E. Yang	64-73-75	—212
Jhonattan Vegas	71-66-75	—212
Mark Calcavecchia	70-71-71	—212
Scott Langley	71-70-71	—212
Kevin Streelman	71-68-74	—213
Chris Kirk	65-73-75	—213
Ben Curtis	68-72-73	—213
Derek Ernst	72-69-72	—213
Steven Bowditch	71-69-75	—215
Fred Funk	69-71-76	—216
Vijay Singh	69-72-75	—216
Joe Ogilvie	71-70-77	—218

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

Runners brave strong rain

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

The 7th Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run pushed through last week despite the inclement weather with nearly 80 runners braving the strong rain and slippery course to complete both the 10K and 20K races in the annual event.

Charlie Sendin emerged as the top finisher in the longer race, clocking in at 1:48:24, while Mamiko Oshima-Berger ruled the women's division after submitting 2:13:33. In the 10K, Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel won the men's division after tallying a field best 54:09, while Amy Sletten had a repeat in the women's division after recording 1:05:53.

Other events that were not hampered by rain last week were the basketball and volleyball games at the Marianas High School Gymnasium and the Gil-



Two runners are greeted by a strong rain on their way to the finish line of the 7th Annual Coffee Trail Run at the American Memorial Park.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

lette Multipurpose Gymnasium. The Sun Palace caging played

its playoff round at the Gillette gym with Rollers 1, 2, and 3 joining FTMP in the playoffs. Rollers 1 went on to eliminate FTMP in the semifinals to set up a championship date with Rollers 2, which ousted Rollers 3.

Still in basketball, Marianas High School remained undefeated in the varsity division of the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League. Other winners in last week's MISO caging were Saipan Southern High School and Saipan International School, which prevailed in their varsity and junior varsity matches, respectively, while Eucon International School swept Kagman High School in the JV and varsity games.

In volleyball, the MHS Lady Dolphins were also flawless after five games, moving ahead of

SIS and Mount Carmel School, which dropped to similar 4-1 slates.

In tennis, four CNMI junior players went to Guam for the 2014 Quality Cup and went home victorious. The pair of Julia Ishikawa and Tania Tan won the girls U14 doubles crown against fellow CNMI players Grace Choi and Malika Miyawaki. Tan and Ishikawa also advanced to the singles finale, but their title duel was called off due to rain and will be rescheduled on Saipan on a later date.

Also rained-out last week were the weekend matches in the Major, Junior, Senior, and Big League divisions of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball, while the 2014 Saipan Baseball League only managed to play its second game last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Barefoot runner Chang Wang Jang, right, accompanies friend Daniel Han to the finish line of the 7th Annual Coffee Trail Run at the American Memorial Park.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A female finisher smiles as she nears the finish line of the rain-soaked 7th Annual Coffee Trail Run at the American Memorial Park.



CONTRIBUTED

Tyce Misters slows down as he negotiates a damp and slippery course of the 7th Annual Coffee Trail Run.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Southern High School's Daniel Camacho beats Mount Carmel School's Enrico del Rosario for the rebound during their game in the varsity division of the MISO caging last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rollers 1's William Camacho is surrounded by FTMP players during the second half of their semis game in the Sun Palace caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A North Start batter gets ready at the plate during their game against the Yankees in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, the CNMI's Grace Choi, Malika Miyawaki, Tania Tan, and Julia Ishikawa pose for a photo before playing in the girls U14 doubles finals of the 2014 Quality Cup in Guam last week.



Wizards end
Thunder's 10-game
win streak, 96-81
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Different QB
styles clash at
Super Bowl
PAGE 25



28 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rollers 2 rules Sun Palace caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rollers 2 bagged the championships trophy in the 2013 Sun Palace Christmas Basketball Tournament after defeating Rollers 1 in a winner-take-all finale, 60-53, last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Rollers 2 came out the stronger team in the second half en route to the 7-point upset win over Rollers 1, which topped the double-round robin elimination with an impressive 11-1 record. Rollers 2 was seeded third in the playoffs with its 8-4 slate and incidentally was the only team to have won against Rollers 1 in the elimination.

In their third meeting, Rollers 2 and 1 were evenly matched as shown in the back-and-forth game in the first half. Neither squad led by

as much as five points in the opening 20 minutes of the finals and by the end of the first half only a one point separated the opposing teams with Rollers 1 clinging to a 28-27 lead.

A 7-0 start in the second half off Jun Fidelino and John Capuyon's jumper and Sam Darag's triple gave momentum to Rollers 2 and it never lost it, foiling Rollers 1's repeated comeback bids.

See ROLLERS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rollers 2's Kobe Mendoza drives and draws contact against Rollers 1's Justin Cayading during the second half of their title game in the Sun Palace caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Braves force 3-way tie for Senior League lead



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Braves' M.J. Sakisat delivers a pitch against the Enforcers during the second inning of their game in the Senior League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

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REPORTER

The Tanapag Braves forced a three-way logjam for the lead in the Senior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball after edging the JPO Enforcers, 4-3, last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Braves scored in the second and third inning and then shut out the Enforcers (0-2) in the last five innings to improve to a 2-0 record and tie the Jets and the Red Sox for the top spot.

M.J. Sakisat pitched in six innings for the Braves and after giving up two earned runs early, he played steady on the mound in the next four innings, allowing only two hits, strand-

ing four runners, and striking two.

The Enforcers got the two earned runs at the top of the second off a sacrifice fly and a base hit and the team scored in the first inning off a Braves error. The Braves then lit up the board at the bottom second with J.J. Lifoifo making it home off an error from catcher Verlance Sechar-midal and went on to grab the lead, 4-3, as Ian Norita hit an RBI single and James Kintol had an RBI double. The third run was courtesy off another Enforcers' booboo.

The Braves hung on to the shaky lead in the remaining inning with Sakisat holding his ground against the Enforcers' batters and the former's outfielders catching five fly

See BRAVES on Page 26



Falcons nip Enforcers, 5-4



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Falcons batter is on his way to hit the ball during the bottom of the fourth inning of their game against the JPO Enforcers in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

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Defending champions Falcons nosed out the JPO Enforcers, 5-4, as action in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball League returned over the weekend at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Falcons faced the Enforcers last Sunday and pulled off the close win, their second

in as many games. The victory was courtesy of relief pitcher and first baseman Justin Cangco and closer Max Pangelinan, who delivered for the defending champions in the homestretch.

Cangco, who had a brief stint on the mound in the third inning before returning to first base, made the go-ahead run at the bottom of the fifth inning. He was the second batter for the Falcons in that in-

See FALCONS on Page 26